
WHY ARE YOU SO AFRAID? DO YOU STILL HAVE NO FAITH?

SERIES: ANSWERING JESUS' QUESTION

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Scripture: [Mark 4:35-51](#)

Introduction:

On Sept. 11, 2001 our daughter, Brooke, called to tell us of the news flash about an airliner flying into the World Trade Center. We became immediately concerned because our other daughter, Lana, was a flight attendant on American Airlines. We turned on the TV to watch the report. You can image our elevated fear when a second airliner flew into the Twin Towers.

For 45 minutes we prayed, talked with anxious voices and reviewed her schedule the best our memories could recall.

1. What if Jesus had said to us, “Why are you so afraid?”
(I think our response to Him at that moment would not have been patient or kind)
2. Would I possess real love if I did not experience deep concern for my daughter?
3. Now I know the difference between worry and fear.
 - a. Fear is based on facts.
 - b. Worry thrives on maybes, imagined possibilities and a dreaded future.
4. We live in an age of anxiety.
“I know I should not worry, but . . .”
5. So is Jesus forbidding fear?

I. God made us to fear danger, but . . .

- A. Fear is a valued human response, but fear dare not rule.
- B. Fear may lead us to conclude, God does not care.
- C. Fear may lead to a lack of courage.

II. Jesus' teaching and timeline

- A. Jesus taught us about God's Kingdom.
 - 1. Worry is no docile opponent.
 - 2. Don't worry.
 - 3. Seek first the kingdom.

- B. Timeline of expectation—"Do you still have no faith?"
 - 1. Why disciples should have had courage . . .
 - a. Jesus had driven out an evil spirit, healed many and challenged the religious leaders.
 - b. Jesus had acted fearlessly and with authority.
 - 2. Fear vs. faith
 - a. Jesus' questions seem to indicate if you are afraid, you lack faith.
 - b. Yet God provided us with a fear response in order to spare our lives.
 - c. How can He condemn us when fear surges within?
Jesus in Gethsemane showed fear and faith. He wished to avoid the cruel torture of crucifixion, but chose to submit to suffering anyway.

III. Disciples' questions are revealing.

- A. “Don’t you care?”
 - 1. Fear slipped into faithlessness.
 - 2. Fear has gained too much power when God is accused of not caring.

- B. “Who is this?”
 - 1. The Gospel answers that question.
 - 2. Jesus has power over...
 - a. Danger (Mark 4:35-41);
 - b. Demons (5:1-20);
 - c. Disease (5:24-34);
 - d. Death (5:35-43).

Conclusion:

- 1. Let’s answer the questions Jesus asked:
 - a. “Why are you so afraid?”
 - b. “Do you still have no faith?”
- 2. We can interpret those questions to:
 - a. Be shaming.
 - b. Be rhetorical and therefore need no answer.
 - c. Spur us on to growth, so we do not allow feelings like fear to stymie our lives.
- 3. How will we answer, “Why are you so afraid?”
 - a. We may try to excuse the fear.
 - b. We might answer dishonestly, “I don’t know.”
 - c. “I am too preoccupied with the threat of circumstances.”
- 4. How will we answer, “Do you still have no faith?”
 - a. No?
 - b. Or like the man in the New Testament who said, “Lord, I believe. Would you help my unbelief?”
- 5. We can understand quieting the storm to be a one time occasion.

- a. In that case we will scold the scared disciples.
 - b. Or we will simply admire the power of Jesus.
6. If we think there may be a universal principle embedded in the story, we can conclude, the presence of Jesus brings peace to the fearful and faithless.

One of our national leaders, whose life is sought because he is a Christian leader, knows fear. Eleven of the 13 men in his Bible study were hunted by his country's government and killed, including his brother. Government agents still seek to kill him. Of course he experiences fear, but he acts in faith.