



## Fear vs. Faith

June 3, 2007

### Group Questions

### Big Picture

Matthew 14:25-33 Page 680 FCC Bible

25During the fourth watch of the night Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. 26When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. 27But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." 28"Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." 29"Come," he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. 30But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" 31Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. "You of little faith," he said, "why did you doubt?" 32And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. 33Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

We were challenged to look at all of the important things we're doing and ask the question, "Is what I'm doing accomplishing what I had hoped?" Maybe what we're spending our time on isn't a matter of right or wrong - it's faith or fear! What we are thinking about doing brings us to an ultimate decision, like Jim when he was soaring over the Royal Gorge. He asked two questions that we ask ourselves. Am I going to do this or not? Am I going to get into the fear or go for it?

There are "boats", stuck places in each of our lives...our jobs, relationships, secrets, success...and we are in a crisis of decision. God is telling us to do something, to get out of our boat. Will we "faith it", get out and walk towards Jesus, or "fear it", stay and do nothing?

3 Observations are that

1. Fear is Normal
2. Jesus comes to us in Storms
3. If I'm not looking for him, I'll miss him

### **Talk amongst Yourselfes**

What do you think is the difference between being fearful and excited about something?

Are you or do you know someone who is in a "boat" who needs to step out of it?

- Struggling with a job?
- Unhealthy in a relationship?
- Harboring a life-sapping secret?
- Overwhelmed by personal success?

Is it you? Is God calling to you to make a decision? Is He telling you not to be afraid? Is He asking you to "faith" (trust) Him in your situation? What's going through your mind? What if?...

### **Finding Ourselves in the Story**

What is your boat experience?

Do you ever feel like God is unwilling or unable to take care of you?

Is there something you think you should do, want to do or think God wants you to do - but that you are afraid to do?

### **Think About It**

Is it easier to follow or even think about God when things are going well or when things are going bad in your life?

God not only shows up in storms, he sends them. Why do you think he does that?

Did Peter fail?

How did the other disciples fail?

Who failed the most, Peter or the disciples? Why?

How do you relate to the Peter and the disciples and their boat experience?

Jesus will come to you, but you will miss him if you're not looking for him. How do make sure you won't miss him?

### Make a Shift

How can I start looking for God in my storms instead of blaming him for them?

Maybe you have stepped out of the boat in the past but experienced rejection and failure. Jim said that Failure does not shape you but the way you respond to Failure shapes you. How can you start responding differently to failures and setbacks in your life?

### Closing Thought

More than 366 times, God reminds us not to fear. Jesus defined fear by saying it is a lack of faith and trust.

2 Timothy 2:1:7 For God **did not** give you a spirit of fear but of Love Power and a Sound Mind

Jim said that a good prayer to pray is to ask God: do you want me to do this?

You will never walk on water if you never get out of the boat!!!

What leap of faith decision are you facing that requires you to walk on water and get out of the boat?

Is God telling you to do something? What are you afraid of?

Is there more to life than boat sitting?

God if it's you. I will come to you. You might fail but Jesus will be there for you. But if you step out of the boat you will walk on water!!

Jim said that another good prayer to pray is to ask God: do you want me to do this?

Ask your group to pray for you about a difficult decision you know God is asking you to make, a decision where Jesus is calling you to get out of your boat. Pray that God will give you the courage to walk on water even though you may never have done it before. It's uncharted territory.