

Beware of Fear

Don't let "being safe" make you irresponsible - Luke 10:30-36 - 30 In reply Jesus said: "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. 31 A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. 32 So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. 33 But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him. 34 He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. 35 The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 36 "Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?"

It is our responsibility as Christians to engage in uncomfortable and at times not so safe situations - Matt 25:41-46 - 41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.' 44 "They also will answer, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?' 45 "He will reply, 'I tell you the truth, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' 46 "Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."

If we are too careful we may miss a blessing - Heb 13:1-3 - Keep on loving each other as brothers. 2 Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it. 3 Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.

One of the requirements for a widow to be placed on the church list is how they are towards strangers - 1 Tim 5:9-11 - 9 Let a widow be put on the list only if she is not less than sixty years old, having been the wife of one man, 10 having a reputation for good works; and if she has brought up children, if she has shown hospitality to strangers, if she has washed the saints' feet, if she has assisted those in distress, and if she has devoted herself to every good work. NASB

Fear of what others think when it's not based on God it's hypocrisy - Gal 2:11-13 - 11 When Peter came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he was clearly in the wrong. 12 Before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because **HE WAS AFRAID** of those who belonged to the circumcision group. 13 The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

Allowing fear to dictate our life decisions will have a disastrous ending

Matt 25:24-27 - 24 "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 So **I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground**. See, here is what belongs to you.' 26 "His master replied, **'You wicked, lazy servant!** So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?

Matt 25:28-30 - 28 "Take the talent from him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. 29 For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. 30 And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

How should we deal with fearful situations?

Stop just claiming to have faith, start Living by faith - 2 Cor 5:7-8 - 7 We **LIVE** by faith, NOT by sight.

Have the right kind of fear - Matt 10:26-31 - 26 "So **do not be afraid of them**. There is nothing concealed that will not be disclosed, or hidden that will not be made known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, speak in the daylight; what is whispered in your ear, proclaim from the roofs. 28 **Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul**. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. 30 And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. 31 So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

Know the source of real protection - Ps 18:2 - 2 **THE LORD** is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. ESV

Be Spiritual not worldly - 2 Tim 1:7 - 7 For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

To make sure our ministry is not hindered just follow HIS instruction - Matt 10:16 - 16 I am sending you out like SHEEP AMONG WOLVES. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.