

Sermon

April 18,2021

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Fear can make us stop from doing the things we want to in life.

Cub Scout Story about Chicago Trip.

We skip to a different Gospel this week. We rejoin Luke at the very end of his writings. Luke picks up after Jesus appears to two people on the Road to Emmaus. Last week we met up with the disciples hiding not knowing what to do next out of fear. Once again fear comes to the forefront of the disciples and Jesus needs to put them at ease.

Fear in our lives has been readily present over the last year. This fear was greatly expanded over what we would normally have doubts and fear about in our lives. With Covid we had that fear of the unknown. Not knowing what was going to happen next in our world, community, families or to ourselves. We were in search for something to place our minds and soul on to give us comfort. Think about a time when you went into the unknown, not sure what was going to happen. It could

be the first day at a new school, a new job, a first date or blind date, driving a car alone for the first time, how about signing on the dotted line for a major purchase. All these things could be a scary proposition, yet we still did them. We thought, pondered, worked the numbers, had encouragement from friends and family.

The disciples need that encouragement from a friend to get out of operating their lives in fear. Jesus did four things in this short story from Luke. First, he had them “look at me”, proof that Jesus is not a ghost. Second “he ate food in their presence” another point that Jesus is not a ghost. Third-He opened their minds to understand the scriptures, proof that Jesus’ death and resurrection are part of his lordship. Finally- he told them “You are witnesses” a description of the group and a call that will move the message forward.

Jesus laid out to the disciple that their time was now. Stop fearing about what to do next. I am still with you. I have risen from the dead. I am not a body left in a tomb. I am alive, just like the prophet have written about for thousands of years. The local powers both religious and political have no power over me and God. This is not about them; it is about all of you and those to come. Those that you will share your message and experiences of me.

That fear of what to do next should not paralyze us. A famous coach once said, “You will miss 100% of the shots you don’t take.” Jesus came back in the flesh to

continue teaching them and to commission them. His whole life, death and resurrection were about what God is doing in the world- reconciling the world with God's self and purpose.

As we all have chosen to follow Christ, we have left that fear behind us. Yes, we still have questions and at times, doubts about what God has in mind for our lives. We have been educated through reading the scriptures with an open mind. We seek out to share the good news to those who have not heard it. Yes, there are a lot of people that have not heard the message of Christ. That is the challenge set before us.

How do we share that message of Good news, when we are still wrestling with the meaning in our own lives? Nowhere in the Bible will you find a charge to explain and understand the Good News, just to share it. That freedom from the fear of not being able to explain in the fine detail that our society has come to expect. No, we just need to share it.

Once we can take that step off the elevator and leave the fear behind, we get to see and enjoy the wide world that is all around us...the world that God wants us to live in and share with others without fear holding us back.