

Summary

In this sermon, Pastor discusses faith in storms, focusing on how to overcome fear. He begins with a personal story about encountering a rattlesnake while hiking, using it as a metaphor to illustrate that our Heavenly Father is not afraid of the things that frighten us. The message centers on Mark 4:35-5:20, where Jesus calms a storm and later heals a demon-possessed man. Through these stories, the pastor demonstrates how Jesus shows no fear in the face of danger, and how our fears often cause us to forget God's promises.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, as we gather to discuss faith in the midst of life's storms, we ask that You would open our hearts to receive Your truth. Help us to recognize the fears that hold us captive and to experience the freedom that comes through trusting in You. May Your Spirit guide our conversation today, revealing to each person exactly what You want them to hear. We surrender our anxieties to You and ask for Your peace that surpasses understanding. In Jesus' name, amen.

Ice Breaker

What's something that scared you as a child but seems silly to you now?

Key Verses

1. Mark 4:40
2. Mark 5:19
3. Romans 8:15
4. 2 Timothy 1:7
5. Isaiah 41:10

Questions

1. The pastor said, 'Your Father in heaven is not afraid of the thing that you are.' How does this perspective change how you view your current fears?
2. In the story, the disciples forgot Jesus' promise that they would go to 'the other side.' What promises of God do you tend to forget when you're in the middle of a storm?
3. What is your 'rattlesnake' right now - the fear that seems to be dominating your thoughts or decisions?
4. The sermon mentioned that 'fear causes us to forget.' What has fear caused you to forget about who you are or whose you are?
5. How do you distinguish between healthy fear that protects you and a 'spirit of fear' that controls you?

6. The pastor suggested naming our fears specifically. Why is naming our fears an important step in overcoming them?
7. What scripture or 'word' has helped you hold onto faith during difficult times?
8. The sermon ended with the challenge to 'give Him our yes.' What area of your life are you currently struggling to surrender because of fear?

Life Application

This week, practice the breath prayer technique mentioned in the sermon. Choose a scripture verse about God's presence or peace (like 'The Lord is with me; I will not fear'). Throughout your day, especially when you feel anxious, breathe in while saying the first part silently, and breathe out while saying the second part. Also, intentionally replace fear-inducing content in your life with praise and worship. Notice how this practice begins to 'rewire the algorithm' of your heart and mind, bringing God's peace into your storms.

Key Takeaways

1. You can't have peace from God unless you're at peace with God through Jesus Christ.
2. We will never have a storm-free life, but we can have a storm-free heart through faith in Jesus.
3. Fear causes us to forget God's promises and who we are in Christ.
4. To cultivate faith in storms: name your fear, hold onto God's word, and practice praise.
5. Our comfort zone is dangerous not because of what we do there, but because of what we don't do - our growth zone is outside our comfort zone.

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for being the one who calms our storms and casts out our fears. We confess that too often we focus on the wind and waves around us rather than on Your presence with us in the boat. Help us to name our fears honestly, to hold tightly to Your promises, and to fill our hearts with praise rather than panic. Give us the courage to step out of our comfort zones and say yes to whatever You're calling us to do. May we remember that even when the worst happens, in You, the worst thing is never the final thing. Thank You for Your perfect love that drives out all fear. In Your mighty name we pray, amen.