



“THE BEST OF BIBLE STUDY”

Lesson 5 - Disapproval: The Fear Of Rejection

Idea: Many times we long for approval so strong that we spend our lives chasing it while sacrificing our values and priorities in order to secure it. When it comes to rejection, what man does is replace God with people. Instead of having a fear of God, we fear man. King Solomon put it this way, “The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.”

A Few Scriptural Examples

1. 1 Samuel 15:24 – King Saul shifted his fear from God to man; he lost the throne.
2. Isaiah 51:12 – The nation of Israel feared men, and God asked why.

Jesus never feared disapproval. When the religious leaders arrived in Gethsemane, he said, “I am He” - John 18:5.

Scriptural Examples of Peter's Fear of Disapproval

1. Unexpected fear – John 18:17 – Peter allowed fear to intimidate him when a slave girl confronted him. As a result, he denied Jesus and he was the de facto leader of Jesus' disciples.
Fear of disapproval was greater than pride in this case, Prov. 16:18.
2. Understandable Fear – John 18:18 – Peter was now intimidated by a group. Classic peer pressure -- when all eyes are pointed on you.
3. Unsurprising Fear – John 18:26 – Another slave of the high priest asked him a question. Unlike the others, she had an agenda. We have to be ready to give a report to anyone who asks, 1 Peter 3:15.

The Reasons We Fear Disapproval

1. We are filled with ourselves - Matthew 16:21-22
2. We fail to pray – Matthew 26:41
3. We function in the energy of the flesh – Matthew 26:52-53
4. We find fellowship in the wrong place – John 18:18, 25

The Resolutions to the Fear of Disapproval

1. Replace our fear of others with His approval of us – Romans 8:31
2. Replace our fears of others with love for Him – John 21:15-17
3. Replace our fear of others with love for others – Fear drains, but love empowers
4. Replace our fear of others with faith in Him – John 21:18-19

Danger: The Fear Of Sudden Trouble

Idea: In life, there are storms that converge on our lives suddenly. The multiple conditions converge and threaten critical areas of our lives, such as finance, relationships, jobs and health. Everyone must face this fear of the sudden changes in life. Therefore, we must develop a perspective that takes into account sudden changes.

The Probability of Storms in Our Lives

1. The disciples' encounter with a sudden storm – Mark 4:1, 35-41
 - a. Examine the conditions – Jesus was tired (long day for the disciples)
 - b. The sea was nearly 700 feet below sea level
 - c. There was a windstorm
 - d. The Perfect Storm – Fatigue, Confusion, Darkness, and Wind

The disciples learned a great lesson that day. Every believer can find themselves in God's perfect will and in the middle of a perfect storm at the same time!

There is a difference between the cross and comfort. Jesus asks us not to be comfortable but to take up the cross.

2. His Presence in the Storms of our Lives – Mark 4:38 – The degree of fear is a gauge of our degree of faith.
3. His Peace in the Storms of our Lives – Mark 4:39; Psalm 107:29 – God uses storms to develop our spiritual growth so we can trust His power, love, and wisdom.
4. The Purpose of Storms in our Lives – Psalm 119:67; 71 – Sometimes we forget who God is, and He sends the storms to remind us.
5. The Product of Storms in our Lives – Mark 4:40-41 – Storms reveal to us the Greater of who God is.

The Promises for the Storms in Our Lives

1. God's Word Assures Us of a Safe Landing – Mark 4:35 – We will arrive at our ultimate destination, as well as our temporary destination.
2. God's Word Alerts us to Expect Stormy Seas – James 1:2-8 – We should count it all joy when we encounter storms.
3. God's Word Announces the Savior Is On Board – Hebrews 13:5, Matthew 28:2
4. God's Word Affirms that Faith Drives out Fear – Mark 4:40, Psalm 56:3, Isaiah 12:2