

Breaking free from our Comfort Zones Pt 2 Mt 14

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, June 1

God doesn't call us to comfort, but to consecration & commitment! Since Transformation seldom takes place on the comfortable paths; Faith is developed on "divine detours!"

Jesus calls us to break away from our "comfort zones" and follow him on paths that will produce Transformation. (Mt 4:19) Since we can't physically see Jesus, if we're to follow him, we must do so by Faith (Heb 11:6; 2 Cor 5:7; 1 Jn 5:4) in:

- His Word (Ps 119:105; 2 Tim. 2:15; 3:16,17)
- His Will (Mt 26:39; Ro. 12:2)
- His Promises (2 Pt 1:3,4; Is. 41:10; Heb. 13:5)
- His Servants (Is. 50:10,11; Heb. 13:7,17)
- His very Nature! (1 Jn 1:5; 4:8) See Isaiah 43:1-5

In order to Change (Transform) us, God must lead us through circumstances that will Challenge (Test) us, to reveal whether we'll trust and obey Him, regardless of our:

1. Disappointments (Mt 13:53-4:15); 2. Doubts (Mt 14:22); 3. Delays (Mt 14:23);
4. Disasters (Mt 14:24); and even 5. Our DREAD! (Fear)

Mt 24:25-28 *"And in the fourth watch of the night, Jesus went unto them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were troubled (tarassō: to agitate; stir up, roil water) and they cried out for fear.*

27 But Jesus spake unto them, saying, Be of good cheer; (tharseō: courage) it is I; be not afraid. And Peter answered him and said, Lord, if it be thou, bid me come unto thee on the water. And he said, Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water, to go to Jesus."

What Fears keep us in the "boat"?

1. Fear Of The Unknown

A. Most would rather remain in the monotony (or misery) of the familiar,
Than to face the uncertainty of a new path.

- 1) Just how secure was their boat anyway? Mt 14:22-32

B. This was a new experience. Is. 43:19 *"Behold, I will do a new thing; ... I will make a way in the wilderness, ..."* (or in the sea of Galilee!)

- 1) It's easy to get stuck in a familiar rut. (even if it's not comfortable!)
- 2) God led Israel (through Joshua) differently that they did through Moses. Joshua 3:4, 4:12

C. This is why Israel would have chosen to remain slaves in Egypt. Ex 14:12

"Let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians... For it had been better for us to serve the Egyptians, than that we should die in the wilderness."

2. Fear Of Ridicule or Rejection! "What will _____ think of me?"

Pr. 29:25 *"The fear (Ḥarādâ' anxiety) of man brings a snare (môqēsh: trap)*

A. Snares don't kill us but they do:

- 1) Immobilize (trap) us.
- 2) Leave us vulnerable to attack. See 2 Tim. 2:23,24

B. Jesus came to set the captives free! Lk 4:19 (With Truth!) Jn 8:32; 2 Tim. 2:23,24

Pr. 29:25 *"The fear of man brings a snare but whoso puts his trust in the LORD shall be safe."*
(śāgab: strong, secure) (Heb. 13:5)

3. Fear Of Failure vs 29-31

A. What was Peter thinking as he stepped out of the boat?

1) Peter is directly referenced 81 times in the gospels, *39 times he's making a mistake!*

B. This is what caused Israel to turn back from the Promised land. Nu. 13:31,32

"We be not able to go up against them for they are stronger than we... and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers."

Ps 78:40-41 *"How oft did they provoke him (mara: be bitter, resist) in the wilderness, and grieve (āṣab: to cut) him in the desert! Yea, they turned back and tempted God, and limited the Holy One of Israel."*

1) Are our fears "limiting" our God?

C. This is what (initially) hindered Esther. Esther 4:11-14 *"who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?...."*

16 *"so will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish."*

Conclusion:

What's keeping you from getting out of the "boat" of your comfort zones into the "sea" of complete commitment?

Disappointment? Doubt? Delays? Disasters? Dread? (of unknown, ridicule, failure)

Just as Fear kept most from fully following Christ during his earthly ministry (Jn 7:13; 19:38; Jn 20:19) So it keeps most from doing so today.

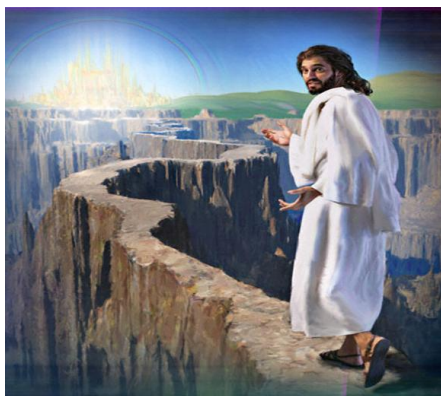
The problem is not that we fear, but rather that we fear the wrong things!

Pr. 29:25 *"The fear of man brings a snare; but whoso puts his trust in the LORD shall be safe."*

Ps. 119:10 *"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments..."*

Ps 34:11 *"Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD."*

Application: Two roads diverged in the wood, I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference." Robert Frost



**What might we miss if we fail to follow
Christ out of the boat,
To choose Road Less Traveled?"
Ps. 23; Jn 10:10, 27,28**