How Fear Hinders Our Service To God

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INTRODUCTION

- Fear is something that is common to everyone. Everyone at some point has been scared of completing a task or getting up and speaking in front of the congregation on Sunday morning.
- What I want to do this morning is give a somewhat modified profiles and courage of the Bible and look at several stories of characters who face great fear.

1 Jonah: Fear Can Prevent Us From Serving God

Jonah 1:3

- But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.
- He was afraid of their repentance because it would prove to them that Nineveh gets a second chance through God's grace, just like he does.
- Fear can ultimately prevent us from serving God.
- We're afraid of these obstacles that are in our path, and we allow those obstacles to stop us from doing God's will.

2 Physical Fear: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Daniel 3:1–6; Daniel 3:16–25; Daniel 3:28–29

- But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.
- God didn't have to, and they knew that, and they were willing to die for what they believed in face of this fear.
- Their facing the fears that they had was able to create an incredible change in Nebuchadnezzar and the nation in which they lived.
- Fear of danger such as this and negative consequences in a physical sense also are able to hinder our service to God.

3 Social Fear: Ananias and Sapphira

- Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep that part of the price of the land for yourself?
- They didn't have to give everything they owned to the Lord to be acceptable to him.
- They were afraid that if they didn't match the same example of others, there might be some kind of judgment.
- Social fears also have the ability to hinder our service to God, in addition to the physical and mental ones.
- Ultimately, this led to their sin and their ultimate downfall.

4 Moses Had All Three Versions of Fear

Exodus 3:2–17

- Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?
- He said, I will certainly be with you, and this shall be a sign that I have sent you.
- He was mentally afraid because he didn't really see himself as a leader.
- Eventually he was able to overcome all three of these fears and devote his life to the Lord.
- By ultimately realizing that God will always be there for you, and that he is ultimately powerful.

5 By Faith They Faced Great Fear

Hebrews 11:7; Hebrews 11:8; Hebrews 11:32–38

- By faith, Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household.
- Noah had to face great fear against the people who were constantly telling him that he was wrong.
- All these situations mentioned here are ones where people had to face great fear. And the theme of this chapter is that they were able to use their faith to do so.
- The belief in God's power and love gives comfort to appease any fear.
- The hope of heaven can ultimately outweigh any earthly fear that we face here.

MY NOTES