

Crossville Church of Christ

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COMPASS

Using God's Word to Chart The Course
Of A Congregation

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Elders:

Frank Bohannon
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Deacons:

Jim Bell
Charles Evans
Kyle Fairman
Dale Hennessee
Mike Isaacson
David Kerley
Doug Loveday
Greg Maxwell
Don Napier
Tom Parham
Mark Roberts
Roger Smith
Jason Wyatt
Jerry Wood

Ministers:

Barry Kennedy
Ken Mears

Missionaries: (India)

Don Iverson
Jim Waldron

Service Times

Sunday Bible Study	9 AM
Sunday Worship	10 AM
	6 PM
Wednesday	6 PM

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

Ladies Bible Class	
Tuesdays	11AM
Prayer Meeting	
Tuesdays	10 AM
Joyful Generation (Youth Devotional & fellowship)	
1st Sunday	7:00 PM

October 25, 2015



FEAR NOT

Barry Kennedy

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not (Emph. mine BK), stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD, which he will show to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, ye shall see them again no more for ever” (Exodus 14:13).

FEAR ROBBS US OF OUR ABILITIES. Satan has preyed upon man’s fears for centuries. The sad fact about it is that we allow it. Fear backs one into the corner and makes it virtually impossible to see the ability God has given His creation. When Moses brought the children of Israel to the banks of the Red Sea, they were ready to let fear rob them of their ability to go forward. God said through Moses “Fear ye not.” What does the New Testament have to say about fear? The parable of the talents gives divine insight into how God views His creation (Matthew 25:14-30). This parable is a study of judgment, but we need not overlook the important point that the master (Jesus) knows our ability. “And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey” (Matthew 25:14). The one talent man allowed fear to control his abilities and when that happens ability turns into inactivity. The result, “cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth” (Matthew 25:30). Many focus upon the punishment and fail to see that God is saying, “Fear not, I know you have the ability.”

FEAR BLINDS US TO OUR OPPORTUNITIES. Opportunities are all around us, but one thing is for certain, if we close our eyes we will never see them. The children of Israel quickly forgot about the deliverance God gave them in Egypt when they saw the enemy advancing and the Red Sea serving as an “impassable” boundary. Their fear would not allow them to see the opportunities that lay before them. How many times do we allow fear to blind us of the opportunities God has before us? How about the times we have been given the opportunities to talk with someone about the gospel, but we allowed our fears to keep us from seizing the opportunity? We must remember that the great commission (Matthew 28:19-20) was given by our Lord; therefore, we should “FEAR NOT.” After all, Jesus said, “...Lo I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20). Paul informed the Roman congregation that if God is for us then who can be against us (Romans 8:31).

Many times we find ourselves frightened by the unknown. Sadly many people are fearing their Christians duty because of the same reason, the unknown. We are the only ones who can change that. It will take diligence to overcome our fears. It will take faith that is motivated to trust in the living God and not in our own ways. “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones” (Proverbs 3:5-8).

Are we ready to trust the Lord and do His will, or will we keep on allowing fear to extinguish our zeal and maintain a melancholy approach to serving God? Let’s all take up that “cross” we have been denying and start following Christ as TRUE BELIEVERS and not fearful mice. The result of a life spent in fear is an eternity in a Devil’s Hell. “But the fearful (emph. BK), and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Revelation 21:8). On the other hand, “He that overcometh shall inherit all things.” (Revelation 2:7). The same God who says “Overcome” says “Fear Not!” Are we listening?

THE MEN OF GENNESARET

Wade Webster

Have you ever heard of the men of Gennesaret? Likely, you haven't. I know that I hadn't until a recent study. Yet, they are men that we should all come to know. They are some of the greatest soul-winners in the Bible. Both Matthew and Mark record them.

In Matthew's account, we read, "And when they were gone over, they came into the land of Gennesaret. And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased; And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole" (Mat. 14:34-36). The men of Gennesaret possessed four qualities that all soul-winners must have - knowledge, zeal, humility, and faith.

First, the men of Gennesaret had knowledge of Jesus. Matthew records, "And when the men of that place had knowledge of him, they sent out into all that country round about, and brought unto him all that were diseased" (Mt. 14:35; cf. Mk. 6:54). "Knowledge" is from the Greek word *epiginosko* which means "to know thoroughly...accurately...well." It means "to recognize by sight" or "hearing." Mark records that the men of Gennesaret knew Jesus "straightway" or immediately (Mk. 6:54). They knew Jesus so well that they recognized him instantly. Those who would win souls today must also know Jesus thoroughly (Phil. 3:8, 10).

Second, the men of Gennesaret had zeal for Jesus. Mark records that when the men of Gennesaret recognized Jesus, they "ran through that whole region" telling men about Him and bringing them to Him (Mk. 6:55; cf. Mt. 14:35). "Ran" is from the Greek word *peritrecho* which means 'to run around.' Ivor Powell described them as "a human-anthill" of activity. Some men have knowledge, but not zeal (Rev. 3:14-21). Others have zeal, but not knowledge (Rom. 10:1-3). The men of Gennesaret had both. They knew Jesus and ran to tell others about Him. Those who would win souls today must also have zeal (John 1:40-42, 45-46; Acts 8:4).

Third, the men of Gennesaret had humility before Jesus. Matthew and Mark record that the men of Gennesaret "besought" or begged Jesus that those who were sick might touch the hem of His garment (Mt. 14:36; Mk. 6:56). It is interesting that we don't know the names of the men of Gennesaret. They weren't seeking for men to know them. They were seeking for men to know Jesus. Those who would win souls today must also be humble. The limbs that bear the most fruit are always bent the lowest to the ground.

Fourth, the men of Gennesaret had faith in Jesus. Matthew records, "And besought him that they might only touch the hem of his garment: and as many as touched were made perfectly whole" (Mt. 14:36; cf. Mk. 6:56). The reference to the hem of Jesus' garment is interesting. This is a reference to an earlier miracle performed by Jesus. The men of Gennesaret had heard and believed (Rom. 10:17). In fact, they had so much faith that they lined the road that Jesus was traveling with those who were sick that He might heal them (Mk. 6:56). Those who would win souls today must also have faith.

I believe that you will agree that the men of Gennesaret were a special group. They certainly rank among the great soul-winners of Scripture. May we imitate them by having knowledge of Jesus, zeal for Jesus, humility before Jesus, and faith in Jesus.

