

## FEARLESS FOLLOWER

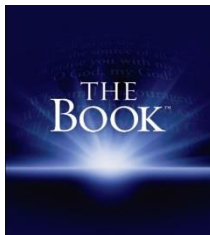
SERIES: REACH | WEEK 3 | 2.7.2021

Well, good morning, good morning everyone online! Thanks for joining us. We're glad you're safe and at home. You probably have a blanket on so we're a little jealous of that but glad you're here with us. We are going to be in Matthew Chapter 10 so if you guys have your Bibles turn to Matthew Chapter 10, uh, if you have your phones on you. Our online pastors will be available all throughout the service to pray with you, answer any questions you may have about the text.

How many of you know what this? [HE HOLDS UP A REACH DOOR HANGER] Okay, so this our REACH series door hanger, and what we did was we introduced this last week and we challenged our people to take a couple of these and to reach out to your family, your friends, your neighbors with the love of Jesus. And what's happened is we actually put on the back just a simple "We wanted to let you know you're loved and prayed for," and then we have a line here where you can write your email and just let people know in your life that you love them and that you're praying for them. And this is just a challenge to our people during our REACH series to reach out. And so I hope some of you are doing that. We know that there's a snowstorm happening but listen, any time during the week you can stop by our office entrance and we're going to have these available, grab a bunch, as many as you want, we'll keep them stocked, and we would challenge you to do that this week.



So again, turn to Matthew Chapter 10, picking up in verse 24; we are in a series called REACH where, again, looking at how "Found People Find People" and we're challenging our people to reach out with the love of Jesus. And Pastor Lee last week talked about the realities of Hell and the hope we have in Jesus.



You see one of our core values here at the church is we are people of The Book, which means we care about what the Word of God says. And so we don't take the Word of God and manipulate it to please our ears or to make it fit our society, our culture—we actually believe that the truth is found in the Word of God, so we respond to that truth. And so we talked about the reality of Hell and how, because there's a reality of Hell, we have to offer the hope of Jesus because the goal—and we know that God doesn't want anybody to go to Hell—He wants everyone to reach out with the hope of Jesus and for people to receive that.

And so Pastor Lee led us in that tone of just reaching out and having that heart to really be fearless, and so we continue that conversation today in Matthew Chapter 10.

Now before you turn to that book or while you're turning to Matthew Chapter 10, I want to tell you I was doing the shoveling this week and I was listening to a podcast and the guy who talked about this book that I remember reading in college called *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*, you guys ever heard of that book?<sup>1</sup> So in that book there is an exercise called the funeral exercise and what it is it asks you a couple questions that you are to write down what you want people to say about you when you die at your funeral. What are the values of your life that you lived out so that people say, "This was the priority of that person's life," is what they would say.

And I remember listening to that while I was shoveling and I remember actually writing those down in college, and so I ran downstairs and I got my Bible and I got my journal from the time I was in college and I opened up my journal to the part where I did that exercise. And here's the first thing I wrote about what I wanted people say about my life, it says: Live fearlessly for Christ like Daniel and David. That was what I wrote down in my journal thinking *Man, if somebody would say that about my life, that he*

<sup>1</sup> *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People* by Stephen Covey – shortened link to Amazon: <https://tinyurl.com/y6n6hsf5>

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*lived fearlessly for Jesus like Daniel and David; man, that is a check box on what I want my life to be about. When people see my life I want them to say those things.* And I thought okay what a great tone for the message that we're going to see in Matthew 10 which is: What does it look like to be a fearless follower of Christ? That's the question we're going to try to answer in this passage today.

So again, Jesus is talking in this passage about fear, and just to set the table here before we start in verse 23, I believe that Jesus is surrounded with His disciples by people that are His enemies, meaning they don't have the best intention for Jesus at that time. And I would argue that Jesus sees the fear in His disciples' eyes looking at these people and they feel probably like sheep surrounded by wolves. And so Jesus is seeing these disciples and He knows that these same people are going to have to take the message of the Gospel to the world and that they're going to be persecuted and they're going to have to stand before men and overcome that fear. So I believe that Jesus sees the fear in His disciples' eyes and He talks to that fear. And so with that understanding let's look at verse 23, here's what Jesus says:



***23 "When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.***

***24 "A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. 25 It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household."***

**– MATTHEW 10:23-25 (ESV)**

So we'll stop right there and we're going to talk about these few passages here.

So one of the things we see here very clearly is that if you want to be a fearless follower of Jesus you will be persecuted. This the reality of what we see in this text. Jesus doesn't say *if* you're persecuted. He says *when* you are persecuted. I think of Paul when he talks to Timothy, in 2nd Timothy Chapter 3 he says everyone who wants to live a godly life in Jesus Christ will be persecuted:

***12 Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,***

**– 2 TIMOTHY 3:12 (ESV)**

So this is a tough doctrine because in this doctrine He says listen, you are not above your Master – the disciples are not above their Master, so He's setting the tone to say, *Look at what happens to my life, look at how people will mock Me and spit on Me.* And ultimately what happens to Jesus, He's crucified on the cross. And He turns to the people who follow Him and says, *Listen, when you follow Me you are not promised security, you are not promised comfort; you are promised the Kingdom but you will have persecution and suffering.* And here's the question: Do we actually believe that? That's not going to fill the seats in a church. That's kind of an uncomfortable doctrine saying okay, if we give our lives to the Lord and we surrender to Him and we grow in our understanding of who He is, what we are called to do, it's saying that chances are the persecution in your life will grow.

So here is the truth and listen to me because this is—hear me loud and clear—if you want a safe and comfortable life in this world, then listen, stay away from Jesus. Like, wh-what do you mean? Because

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if you read Matthew 10 you can't conclude that if you follow Jesus you're going to be promised the great house and the big raise and the great health—it's not promised in Scripture. You get Jesus, which is worth it, but you don't get security in this world. And in fact, He promises that as you follow Him you're going to face persecution.

So do we really believe that? There's a cost to that. Right? Like, you have to look at this world and say is there anything in this world that I'm not willing to lose? Because if I say I love Jesus and that it's Him who's leading my life, I have to look at all those things and be willing to lose them for the sake of the Gospel. This is why that fearless call is so important because if we trust in God it's—listen—wherever You lead me I will go. Lord, what whatever comes my way I trust You. And that's embracing the fact that we don't have control over what happens to us.

I feel this follower of Jesus, this another one that's so important—look at verse 26—has overcome their fear of man. Look at what Jesus says:

***26 "So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. 27 What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. 28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul.***

— this is important, listen to this:

***Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. 29 Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. 30 But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.***

— Jesus says:

***31 Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.***

– MATTHEW 10:23-31 (ESV)

And so Jesus in the midst of the fear in the eyes of the disciples, He sees the world around them and He says to them: This an illusion. He says what you see here—the powers, the rulers, the schemes of men—He says I am sovereign and they're not ultimately in control. And He, in fact, says that justice will be His. And so why can a believer have a fearless action and attitude towards the world? Why can we look at the world and look at people and not fear them? Because God says justice is mine. So He looks at the world and says there is never going to be something that happens that isn't going to be accounted for. I know what's happening and I see it and trust Me, I'm not going to forget it.

Man, that's so comforting for a person who's maybe struggling right now. Fear in the unknown, fearing what happens to our country, what happens next to my children, what happens with their school, what happens with COVID—all this fear of not knowing what's going to happen comes over us. And God says n-n-no, I am sovereign and just, and everything that's done before man I see. And so this one of the reasons why Jesus is calling out fearlessness.

Look at what He says also in verse 26, he says flesh is temporary—flesh is temporary, soul is eternal. So He's calling the reality out that these disciples when they face persecution. This is kind of powerful – right? Jesus says listen, the worst that can happen to you is that they kill you, and if they kill you they usher you into eternity so that you're with Me. And so even if your greatest fear is death, you don't even have to fear death because if they kill you, man, they dispatch you into paradise. And He looks around the world and He says don't be caught up in the things of this world, don't fear the flesh and neglect the soul.

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What's that mean in application? That means that oftentimes in our lives we look at the world and we say, "Does the world like me? Does the world approve of me? And is what I'm doing matter to the world?" And we forget that when we die—here's the truth—when we die the world will continue on and they'll forget about us. But yet when we die we are going to be before the Lord and He's going to delight in us. And Jesus says don't make your treasures in this world. Don't be afraid of losing something in this world if you gain something in eternity. And so He's saying listen, don't fear the people that could kill you and usher you into eternity, fear the Person that can destroy both flesh and soul.

It's the passage that I remember when Paul<sup>2</sup> says – right? – what good is it to gain the whole world and lose your soul? What good is it to look at these people and to make compromises and not be bold with your faith, not say the truth that they need to hear because they need to know Jesus, to be afraid of what they think, and in turn you're giving them not an opportunity to hear about the Gospel. That, in fact, Jesus is calling His disciples to kind of walk into persecution and be okay with taking the shrapnel, taking the persecution, for the hope that they will receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Look what He also says here in verse 30Mdon't miss this—He talks about having knowledge of every hair on your head:

***<sup>30</sup> But even the hairs of your head are all numbered.***

**– MATTHEW 10:30 (ESV)**

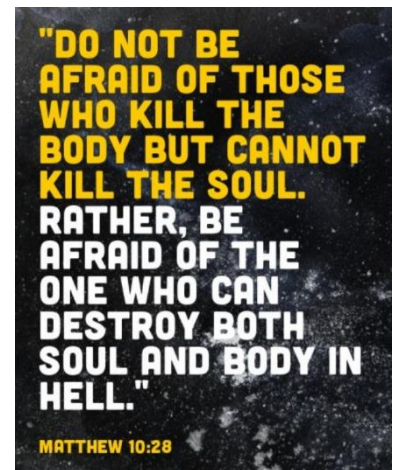
Why does He do that? Because He's showing in this example an intimacy that is greater than any person in this world could have with you. Because any one of us if we try to look at each other's heads and count the hair on our heads we don't have enough patience, we don't have enough time, we don't even have enough brain capacity to probably do that; maybe a computer, but we certainly can't. And so He's actually pointing out, He's saying I know you so intimately that the world doesn't know you. I have value to have in your life that—please understand that I love you and I care for you more than your parents care for you, more than your siblings care for you, more than the person that says they love you. No-no, I love you deeply, I know every hair on your head. So He's challenging great boldness while reminding them of great love. And so He ends with this idea that the Lord values, verse 31, more than this world:

***<sup>31</sup> Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows.***

**– MATTHEW 10:31 (ESV)**

God doesn't see the world and say this all there is, and nor should you if you're a follower of Jesus. So a fearless follower is focused on the world to come. This why we often have fears because we're not, we're focused on our circumstances or our conditions around us. Listen, I'll make this practical. When you read the Scriptures – right? – you think *Man, we're not going to experience the things that the disciples experienced, they lived far away.* Chances are everyone in this room, everyone online, we're not going to die for our faith and I would say you're probably right, but the idea that you live in a world that you're not going to face persecution, let me paint you a picture of the reality.

<sup>2</sup> This is actually Jesus speaking, not Paul, in Matthew 16:26 (ESV): *"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?"* And also Mark 8:36-37 (ESV): *"For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul? For what can a man give in return for his soul?"*



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You live in a world that is relative, that is very materialistic, that is very subjective—this what it means—it means people believe that *my* truth is different than your truth, *my* feelings are different than your feelings, so how dare you say something like Jesus is the only way, the truth and the life, no one can come to the Father but through Me—that is an arrogant statement. And so in the reality is if we are going to be obedient to share Jesus, it's going to fly in the face of a world that says how dare you say there's only one way. And so with that will come persecution. Right? Will come people that say how dare you have such arrogance to say that Jesus is the only way. And we are to walk into that persecution still loving the people that persecute us because we know that that is the message of hope that they need. And so it's walking towards that knowing that – listen – we have to get over ourselves when it comes to not being persecuted. We will be persecuted but we are okay with that because we are focused on the Lord and focused on the Kingdom to come. It's a spirit-driven gutsiness that God is calling us out to.

Like, I had this conversation with this girl named Jennifer online and she just blamed Christianity for all the things in her life; all the problems in our world she blamed Christians on and she was very hateful towards Christians. And she posted, she said, "Any Christian want to talk to me? I'll tell you why Christianity and Jesus is so horrible." And so I said, "Hey, I'd love to talk to you." So we were talking through a messenger and I'm asking her questions and, man, I'm taking shrapnel from Jennifer because she's blaming and she's calling out my God and she's slandering my Jesus. And I'm hearing all these things but I'm standing there asking her questions about who she is and why she thinks that way and why she's so angry. And in the midst of an hour-long conversation all of a sudden Jennifer says, "I grew up in a Christian school and I was molested." And I said there it is, but I couldn't get to the heart without taking the heat.

But as somebody who follows Jesus I don't look at Jennifer and run because she's mean. I don't look at Jennifer and run because she's angry at my God. N-n-no, my God pursued me in love and so I'm going to pursue her with the Gospel of Jesus, which means I'm going to have to be called an idiot. I'm going to have to be called wrong and prideful and arrogant, but I'm still going to pursue her, I'm still going to offer the love of Jesus. I have to walk through not being loved by her in order for her to know who's loved. Do you hear what I'm saying?

And so that's what Jesus is trying to grow in the disciples' hearts is their boldness to say even though they will act a certain way and treat you a certain way, see the heart and be bold enough and fearless enough to go after it. And so this what I'm thinking about when Jesus is calling disciples. Man, am I fearless? Are you fearless? Do you fear the world? Do you fear man? Or do you fear God? Look what it says in verse 32:

*<sup>32</sup> So everyone who acknowledges me before men,*

— man, this a powerful text —

*I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven,<sup>33</sup> but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.*

– MATTHEW 10:32-33 (ESV)

And I think of King David in Psalms 100 where he says:

*<sup>3</sup> Know that the Lord, he is God!  
It is he who made us, and we are his;  
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

– PSALM 100:3 (ESV)

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The idea of saying, listen, God created us for God. Our goal is to bring glory to God, so if we deny Him before man God says that's a big deal, because I am going to give account for you before God. And so how you live, the boldness you take in this world matters to God. It is proof of your love and your trust to Him. And so in this passage he's wrestling with the idea of is your mindset in this world that, listen, everything in this world is meant for God and I'm going to walk in trust and obedience to Him and, listen, I'm not going to fear the outcome because God is in control. Like, I'll give you an example.

There's a famous missionary named Henry Martyn and he actually died fairly young, but he was just such a bold, fearless follower of Jesus. And he would go to these places that didn't know Jesus and they were dangerous places, but yet God grabbed his heart when he was a young man. And here's his response when people said, "Why do you continue to go to these places? Why do you put your life into jeopardy?" And he says this, "I am immortal until the work of Jesus is done in my life." Online, are you hearing that? That's a powerful thing. His attitude was, listen, I am not going to die until Jesus' work is complete in my life because He is sovereign over these things. He's sovereign over the encounters I have, the relationships I have. I don't have to fear this world because if Jesus wants me alive, I'm alive; and if He wants me to go home, I'll go home, but I'm going to be obedient. I'm not going to look at the conditions of this world and say, "God, I'm not going to follow You because I'm too afraid." And I believe he's probably rejoicing with the Lord to this day. He didn't lose, he gained. And so what a beautiful perspective, what a fearless follower to say, listen, I'm immortal until the work of Jesus is done in my life.

A fearless follower also has deep convictions, deep, deep convictions. Look at what He says in 34:

***<sup>34</sup> "Do not think that I have come to bring peace to the earth. I have not come to bring peace, but a sword. <sup>35</sup> For I have come to set a man against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. <sup>36</sup> And a person's enemies will be those of his own household.***

— listen to what this says in verse 37:

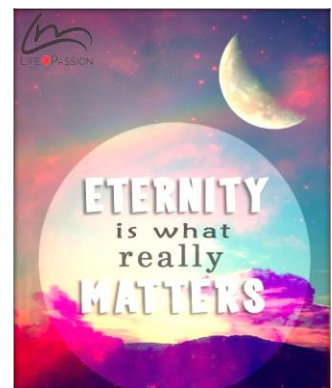
***<sup>37</sup> Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.***

— verse 38:

***<sup>38</sup> And whoever does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me."***

**– MATTHEW 10:34-38 (ESV)**

Okay, let's unpack this here. The fearless follower of Jesus leaves a godly legacy over a family legacy. This what we just read there, that a fearless follower leaves a godly legacy over a worldly legacy. I'm going to prick at our idol. Right? Listen, we idolize our families. We do. We make our families the priority; it is family, then God. And when somebody challenges that we say, "No, no. Isn't it awesome to live for your family?" "Yes, Pastor John, I know that the world doesn't have much but my family does and if I can leave a legacy with my family so that they have great schooling and they have a good job and that they gain the world" – but here's the problem. We just read that if you spend all your time saying your children need to gain the world and get the greatest job and the greatest house but you neglect their eternity – you have failed them.



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And so what he's saying there is not to not love your family, but do not make your family above God because there will be times where your family will push back on what you know God is calling you to do. Listen, there has been times where people have been baptized here because they are responding to what Jesus is doing in their life and they want to step out in obedience, but when they leave this place they get phone calls from their mom and dad saying, "How dare you get baptized in a Christian church!" And they get persecuted by their own family as they walk into obedience. And here's what Jesus is saying—listen, your family may have certain expectations but I am God. My love for you is greater, my purpose for you is greater, so do not neglect the fact that I should be your treasure over your family. That in your legacy, the legacy should be I want to leave a godly legacy with my children. I want the second and third generations to love God because I arrowed, pointed them towards Him in my life. I was an anchor to say, "This what a life looks like depending on God," and I want that to be the legacy. I don't care what my children do for a living and my great-grandchildren do for a living, I want them to know Jesus.



And here is why I'll prove that this such an act of love that God says don't you dare worship your children and love your children over Me. Here's why that's an act of love, because if you look at the reality of our world and this a hard reality, you are two to three generations away from being completely forgotten by your family—this is the reality. My great-grandfather, I know a little bit about his job, I don't know about his character, I don't know about his battle, I don't know much about him. We are two to three generations of being forgotten by our family, but listen, if we leave a godly legacy not only will we go to the Lord and say, "Listen, I was faithful to You to point my family towards You," but now you've set them up to join you in eternity.

And so though they may forget about you, if you anchor your life and your family on God, man, they're not going to forget about God. He is with them. And so He's saying, listen, it's not that you don't love your family, but no, make sure you love Me first; and make sure the legacy you leave is the one of fearing God over status or wealth or circumstances because it's temporary. You yourself won't even be remembered unless they join you in eternity. This is the reality. And so I'm poking at the idol of family to say family is good, but God says n-n-no, you should love Me more. Matthew 16, Jesus says in 26:

***26 For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?***

— and I mentioned that, but look what He says:

***Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?***

**– MATTHEW 16:26 (ESV)**



**For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?**

**Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?**

**– MATTHEW 16:26 (ESV)**

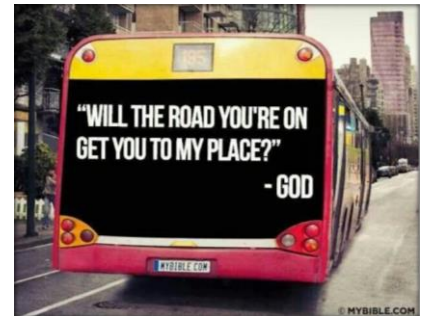
And so this is the challenge when Jesus says, hey, listen, you are to pick up your cross daily. This is a core value that we have in our church that we would be cross-bearers, that we would look at our lives and say, listen, we have a choice—we can run towards safety and security, or we can take up our cross and run towards the things that God loves. Run towards the hurt, run towards the broken, extend our love for others, and that's the cross we bear, to say, "Father, where do You want me to go?" I'm not going to run towards comfort; I'm going to run towards my purpose. But what's amazing about this passage, it kind of seems somber but it ends with this amazing, joyful,

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hopeful thing. Because, really, what Jesus is saying here is this: If you want to waste your life then run after the pleasures of this world, run after the comforts of this world, be secure and comfortable, but you'll waste it. Nothing about that you'll take away. He says but if you give your life to Me, if you die to self, if you let Me lead your life, Scripture says you'll find life.<sup>3</sup> And so this a joyful thing.

He's looking at the disciples and He's saying listen, I don't want you to stay in fear, I want you to understand the promises I have for you, the victory I have for you, the sovereignty I have in this world, and the fact that you don't have to fear. And His goal is not to make them mourn what they lost, it's to walk in the joy of what is found in Him. It's a joyful passage. Don't miss this. It's a joyful passage of n-n-no, those who take up their cross and die to self will find life and life eternal; it makes everything in this world matter compared to everything in this world not matter, and the choice is all about who's in control.



And so let me turn the tables back to the point of why are we calling out fearlessness, because – let me ask you a question: What will people say at your funeral? Online, I'd love for you to chat and offer: What would people say when you die? Again, it's not about them, it's about what drives your life. Like, like, let's be honest. Will they say that you love that sports team? And let's flush that out in light of eternity. Or you were really good at golf? What if they'll say, "Listen, he had a really nice car," or "He was kind of a funny guy." Or would they have to lie about you?

I've been at so many funerals where you look at the person's life and it was just about them and they didn't care about anybody else, and they didn't have anything other than self at the motivation of all they did. And so the people at their funeral have to lie about making it up that they were somehow temporarily good in order for them to look better. But the reality is to know God is calling us to live a greater life, a fearless life, where people don't talk about you at your funeral but they talk about Him. And that your life is marked by this holy boldness, this fearlessness of saying, "God, I want people to glorify You. I want my life to be one where they say, *He put himself (or herself) in jeopardy for the sake of the Gospel.*"

And so let me ask you this question, church: What would it look like if we were fearless followers of Jesus as a church? I mean, what would that look like if all of a sudden we left a legacy because, listen, we are stewards of this building, stewards of this church, stewards of the people in this room, this is not ours, this is God's. But what would it look like if we were known by the generations to come as fearless followers of Jesus? That if I would challenge the church to do something like this, to take a REACH card to put on the neighbors instead of having the majority of the church say, "I can't do this, I don't have enough courage. I'm too afraid of what will happen. I may lose my job. I may lose my promotion. I may lose my friendships."

Instead of that response what if we were a church that says, "This is too easy." That, man, we've been spending years on our neighbors and we know our neighbors and we've been pursuing them with love, this an easy step. Challenge us. How about we go to the world? How about we go to a place that no one wants to go to because we are fearless and we trust the Lord? What would happen if we were church like that? You know, I pray often that we would be a church like we see in the early church because they were just like us—they had the same fears to overcome, the same anxieties, the same unqualifications that we all have, to go out and talk about a perfect God when we are not perfect. And the hypocrisy that comes by extending love and extending grace and extending hope to people that know

<sup>3</sup> Proverbs 8:35 (ESV): *For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the Lord.*



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your past, but you know Jesus is worth it; persecution, Jesus is worth the mockery and so you do it anyway.

Like the early church, there's a passage in Acts Chapter 4, listen to what it says happened when people were focused and fearless about the call that God has on this life. It says this in Acts Chapter 4:

***29 "And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.***

– ACTS 4:29-31 (ESV)

And so God is calling us as individuals and as a church to be bold because what is there to lose? What is there to lose with that person's eternal soul? For me to be mocked, for them to know about Jesus—I'll take that any day. For my family to not be valuing the world, but valuing eternity—I'll take that any day. Because I want to offer the people in my life something that they can never get rid of. I want to offer them Jesus and if that means that I become less so that they can know Jesus, I'm in. What about you? Right now you have faith, you have family, you have friends, you have neighbors that don't know Jesus and you are the closest thing in their life to the Gospel. Will you step towards them?

So I'm going to invite you right now in this room to—whatever God is laying on your mind, there is a person or a situation or something in your mind that you know God is calling you to do but you're afraid—I'm going to invite you to join me. Whether you are in this room, maybe you want to stand, put your arms up in the air; whether you're at home, stand up in your living room, hug your family, lift up these prayer requests—we're going to pray that God would give us a spirit of fearlessness. That we would be people that walk towards obedience, and listen, we would rejoice when we're persecuted. We would rejoice. If we suffer the way Jesus suffers, we rejoice. And so if that neighbor slams that door in your face, you praise God because God is at work no matter what he responds to that, He's greater than what's going to be happening around you. That you are faithful to the call and God's going to do the rest.



So Father, we—right now at home and in this room—we pray for a spirit of boldness, Lord, we would be recklessly abandoned when it comes to your purpose for our lives. That we look at this world and we pursue it with fearlessness. Lord, that we would overcome our fear of death, overcome our fear of not being in control, Lord, we give that to You. Lord, we give You our fear of losing our job, losing our status, losing our friendships, losing our family. We give You all of those fears and we ask that You give us a spirit of boldness to do your will no matter what it cost us.

Father, the church needs to be loud, the world is dying and we are quiet, we are safe and we can't stay safe anymore, we need to reach out. So Lord, give us a spirit of worship, give us a spirit of obedience.

Lord, I pray right now for the homes, that You would give fathers a fearlessness to lead their families towards righteousness; mothers a fearlessness to lead their families towards righteousness. Lord, I pray for the singles out here listening to me, that they would be fearless to walk in obedience and to go the path that God has for them, even if it doesn't make sense.

## FEARLESS FOLLOWER

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And Father, we pray that in all of this You would be glorified; that we would be a church that is known for our fearless faith. And so as we lift up the song and worship to You, Lord, let it be our testament that we are no longer slaves to fear but we've been set free by the Gospel. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

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