

# “REMEMBER WHO IS ON BOARD!”

**TEXT:** Mark 4:35-41

**THESIS:** To encourage believers that regardless of the storm they are safe because He is “on board.”

**INTRO: A.** Up to now the disciples of Christ had not had their faith tested. They had heard Him teach and preach and had seen Him heal people, including Peter’s wife’s mother. Now He would take them into a raging storm. Fun, fellowship and food would be replaced by fear. Faith is never tested in the good times, the times when God is obviously doing something in our lives, but in the difficult times, the hard times, the times when we can’t see His hand moving.

**B.** Jesus’ rebuke in v.40 teaches a powerful truth. You can’t be fearful and faithful at the Same time. One who is fear-ful is filled with fear and thus cannot be faithful or filled with faith. The reason believers become fearful is because they forget Who is “on board.” The disciples forgot Jesus was on board the boat! Whenever you are `fearful “REMEMBER WHO IS ON BOARD!”

## **1 FEAR IS PARALYZING: (KEEPS YOU DETOURED)**

### **A. Fear Will Keep Us From God’s Will:**

1. Fear of man keeps folks from salvation (friends, relatives, etc.).
2. Fear of water keeps folks from baptism.

**ILLUS:** Ever wonder why people are so fearful of baptism? No one in recorded history has ever drowned in a baptismal pool! It is the devil attacking obedience in the young convert. Whenever I see someone who is fearful getting baptized I get excited because I know they are overcoming a fear which has paralyzed them. Now I know they can grow. Faith has replaced fear. Fear of financial disaster keeps folks from giving.

**ILLUS:** You say if I tithed or gave to everything that preacher says I should: missions, the bus ministry, the new building, Sunday School, special needs, etc. I'd be in trouble. You would, if there were no God! There is no faith involved in giving only what you can "afford."

4. Fear of rejection keeps folks from soul-winning.

**ILLUS:** Fear is what the devil uses to keep people from God's will. To experience fear is not a sin, but to be ruled by fear is! To see legitimate danger is not sin, but to allow that fear to paralyze you or the church is sin! Every time you go soul-winning you will experience some fear, but it will turn into excitement when you see

God begin to work thru you. God hasn't given us a spirit of fear, so if I have a spirit of fear, I wonder who gave it to me? We just need to "REMEMBER WHO IS ON BOARD!"

**2 Tim. 1:7**

*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*

## **11 FEAR IS POWERFUL: (KEEPS YOU DOUBTING)**

### **A. Fear Will Keep Us From Claiming Victory:**

1. Fear produces doubt and doubt is disabling.
2. Someone said "Fear is the anticipation of disaster, or failure or embarrassment; the anticipation of everything going wrong.

**ILLUS:** In the midst of all Job's suffering and trouble He said: "that which I greatly feared is come upon me." Job 3:25 Job is saying "I just knew this was going to happen, I've been worrying about this for years...and now that it's happened, I have to suffer all over again." The doubter suffers twice. The faithful person suffers once - if things don't work out. Job suffered twice. Instead of enjoying the good years, he doubted and feared.

3. Fear robs people of enjoying the blessings of God.
4. Fear allows problems to paralyze us.
5. Fear rules God out: you can't be filled with faith and filled with fear at the same time.
6. Fear of failure always produces failure, not victory; faith is simply "remembering Who is on board."

## **III. FEAR IS COUNTER PRODUCTIVE: (KEEPS YOU DEFEATED)**

### **A. Fear Forgets God's Sovereignty:**

1. The disciples looked at the circumstances instead of looking to the Lord of the circumstances; that always produces fear.
2. They forgot that He was the One Who healed the sick, cast out demons and created the universe, or at least they "forgot Who was on board!"

**ILLUS:** It's one thing to know God, it's another thing to be aware of His presence in your life...especially when things are going wrong! Did they think that a mere storm could "sink the ship where lies, the Master of earth and sea and skies"? Did they think God was going to die? A Christian family stood by their house which had just burned to the ground. They were all naturally weeping, but the son seemed especially shaken. His father wisely put his arm around his young son and said: "Son, don't worry. God didn't die in the fire." He didn't die in your fire either! "REMEMBERE WHO IS ON BOARD!"

After 17 years + in prison, Joseph confronts the brothers who put him there. They were fearful of how he would treat them. He said: "But as for you, ye thought evil against me, but God meant it unto good..." Gen. 50:20 He REMEMBERED WHO WAS ON BOARD."

### **B. Fear Forgets God's Promises:**

1. Fear paralyzes us because of the problems, faith propels us because of the promises!
2. The disciples had failed and became fearful because they forgot His promise: "Let us pass over unto the other side" - that was as good as a passport. V.35

**ILLUS:** It didn't matter how bad the wind howled, or the waves roared, or how much water was in the boat, all they had to remember was His promise. He didn't say "Let us sink in the storm" or "Let us go halfway across and then drown" He said "Let us pass over unto the other side."

Dr. Tom Malone said there are 32,000 promises in the Bible. I may not be able to remember them all, but I should be able one or two for my circumstances and claim them. The Bible is a promise book. If you can't remember His sovereignty, try to remember His promises! We sing "Standing On The Promises" and don't believe a word of it when trouble comes and forget Who is on board and what He has said!

### **C. We Forget Past Victories:**

1. He has worked in the past but we think that was His last burst of power and that His energizer batteries finally quit going!
2. Faith is not a problem free life...in fact if it were not for problems there would be no way to test or demonstrate faith.
3. What God did last week, He can do today; what He has done for others, He can do for you; what He has done in the past, He can do again.

**ILLUS:** David was going out to face Goliath. Saul said: "You can't go out against that giant." David said: "Oh, yes I can. I remember one time I was watching sheep and a lion came and I rose up to kill him. And another time a bear came and I killed him. I wasn't any match for either of them, but God did it thru me. If God could do that for sheep, what could He do for Israel?" David encouraged himself in past victories. He knew He was still serving the same God.

After the battle, David put Goliath's armor in his tent. He knew this would not be his last battle. He needed something to remind him of past victories.

Perhaps it would be a good thing for us to keep a record of God's past victories in our lives and ministry. Then maybe the next time we wouldn't be so fearful!

4. Fear is not abnormal, but to be ruled by it is unchristian; when soul-winning time comes it is O.K. to be fearful as long as I don't let it keep me home.

**CONCL:** If we are going to operate by faith, we need to overcome fear. We do that by "REMEMBERING WHO IS ON BOARD!" We need to remember His sovereignty, remember His

promises and remember His past victories! Then the paralyzing effect of fear, the power of fear and the counter-productivity of fear will be replaced by faith.