

Why Are Ye So Fearful?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Mark 4:36-40, "And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?"

Jesus was there in the ship with them, but because he was asleep they thought that he was not going to help them. He was with them and was in the same storm that they were in. It seems that unless they saw him at work performing miracles they were filled with doubt and fear. When they woke him up he calmed both the storm and their fearful hearts. He seemed to say unto them, "I am with you, what are you afraid of?"

It wasn't that the ship was going down, it didn't, it was that they thought that it might sink. Aren't we like that today as well? We worry about what might happen. Not that it will happen, but that something bad might happen. If you stop and think about it most of what we worry about doesn't take place. Often we have worried for nothing. Someone said that worry is interest that you pay on a debt that you don't owe. I think that's a pretty good description of what worry is. I doubt that there is anyone who hasn't worried at some time in his, or her, life.

Why do we worry? Have you given it much thought? We are fearful of what might happen, even though we have no way of knowing that it will happen. Now while the natural man worries and is concerned about many things, what about those who believe in Jesus? If we stop to think about it when, and if, we spend time worrying, we are basically telling the Lord that we either doubt him, or that he loves us. If there is true faith and love for the Lord Jesus how can there be fear and doubt? In both the Old and New Testaments there are examples of those who faced persecution and death boldly and without fear because they had complete faith in the Lord. How many have died for their faith and would

not deny the Lord Jesus? While others were fearful of being laughed at and mocked and gave up their faith.

We must know who and what we believe, otherwise we are going to be fearful and full of doubt. If someone mocks the bible and the church, how do you feel? Does it make you question your belief? When your faith is strong it will cause you to pray for those who walk in spiritual darkness. At times I see, or hear, of someone making light of the faith in God and I wonder how they can believe in evolution and make fun of the truth. Whatever is going on in life should cause us to look to the Lord and not to be fearful of whatever is happening.

Jesus asked his disciples, "Why are ye fearful." It is still a good question for us today. Fear and faith can't exist together any more than love and hate. Which do we have in our hearts and lives? The Lord said he would never leave and forsake us. If we believe that then why do we fear and worry? Maybe a person is being told that he has some serious disease, how should he feel? I have seen several cases through the years where this has happened. Some have said, "If it is the Lord's will, I will either be healed, or I shall be going home to be with him. His will be done."

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OIL WAS SO IMPORTANT A PRODUCT OF THE LAND IN BIBLE TIMES THAT IT WAS THOUGHT OF AS PURE WEALTH ALONG WITH SILVER AND GOLD! MANY RICH MERCHANTS ASSESSED THEIR WEALTH BY HOW MANY POTS OF GOLDEN OIL THEY HAD ON HAND TO SELL IN THE MARKET PLACES! OIL WAS USED FOR LIGHTING UP ROOMS IN THE NIGHT (EX. 27:20), IT WAS USED FOR FOOD (1 KINGS 17:12), MIXED WITH MEAL AND MADE INTO CAKES AND BREAD - IN FACT, CAKES OF FINE FLOUR WITH OIL POURED OVER THEM WERE USED AS MEAT OFFERINGS IN THE HOLY TEMPLE (LEV. 2:1,4-7). OIL WAS USED IN MEDICINE FOR HEALING WOUNDS (MARK 6:13) AND FOR ANOINTING THE BODY AFTER A BATH, AND FOR RENDERING THE HAIR SMOOTH (PS. 23:5). IT WAS USED FOR ANOINTING KINGS AND WAS CALLED HOLY BECAUSE IT WAS USED IN BEHALF OF GOD (PS. 89:20). A HOLY OIL OF COMPOSITE AND VERY EXPENSIVE CHARACTER WAS USED FOR THE ANOINTING OF HIGH PRIESTS. NO WONDER EVERYONE WHO HAD A HOUSE WITH A LITTLE LAND ALSO PLANTED AN OLIVE TREE OR TWO FOR THE OIL THAT IT WOULD BRING!



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