



SERMON NOTES

UNAFRAID

Week 4 (May 17): "Fear of Failure"

Psalm 46

I. Fear of Failure

- A. All of us want to do something at times but we become afraid to do it because we may _____.
- B. We have a way of _____ the risks versus rewards in many areas of life and we take the risk.
- C. One of the steps in _____ fear of failure is recognizing that you are going to fail at times.

II. Desperate to please

- A. We live in a time when people have more opportunities to express public _____ of others than ever before.
- B. Before we offer criticism of others we should ask _____:
 - 1) Does it reflect the way I would want to be treated?
 - 2) Am I reflecting love?
 - 3) Am I pointing out the shortcomings of others when I myself have the same or worse shortcomings?
- C. One way to overcome a fear of disappointing others is to remember that we will all _____ people at some point.

III. Lessons from the heroes of the faith

- A. In scripture, when God says "do not be _____, for I am with you," it's almost always in the context of God saying "I need you to go and do something."
- B. When we are talking about God being with us, we are talking about us following _____ path.
- C. When we feel afraid we need to trust in God. That trust becomes faith. And that faith becomes _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message

ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

When fear of failure really takes over, you begin to avoid taking risks – because every risk includes a possibility that you will fail, that you will lose face, that you will embarrass yourself or people will laugh at you. When this happens, you may miss out on some of the most amazing blessings in your life. What can we do with our fear of failure?

Monday: Exodus 3:2-4, 9-11, 13, 4:1, 10, 13; Deuteronomy 34:10-12

As you read all of Moses' reasons for not doing what God was calling him to do, consider which of them most resonate with any fears you face.

Tuesday: 1 Samuel 17:4-11, 32-37, 41-45

When have you had to face a "giant" problem or person? Were your inner feelings (whether you showed them externally or not) more like those of Saul and the army, or like David's? What role, if any, did your trust in God play in the way you faced the intimidating situation? Did you learn anything that helps you with giant problems or persons you face today, or may face in the future?

_Wednesday: Numbers 13:27-33; 14:1-3

Camped right on the borders of the Promised Land, Israel turned away because fear got the better of them. Are there any "frontiers," spiritual or emotional as well as physical, you sense God might be calling you to cross? What fears arise in your heart as you think about where God may be calling you? How can you develop the kind of faith Caleb and Joshua showed?

Thursday: Psalm 73:1-13, Daniel 8:12-25

For this psalmist, it was "the prosperity of the wicked" that nearly caused him to give up faith in God. At what times in your life, if any, has the "success" of the wicked led you to ask, "Does the Most High know anything?" (v. 11) Whose position, possessions or prospects do you envy? How much does it matter to you how "success" is reached?

_Friday: 1 Timothy 1:3-5, 4:8-16

What examples of either spiritual courage or timidity are parts of your family's spiritual legacy? In what ways have parents, grandparents and other important people given you confidence to fearlessly value and use your God-given strengths? What effect have they had on you? How can you mentor and encourage someone who is younger than you are?

MOVING FORWARD

In scripture, when God says "do not be afraid, for I am with you," it's almost always in the context of God saying "I need you to go and do something." Many of our heroes of the faith were afraid to do what God called them to do. But they put their trust in Him. When you are paralyzed by fear of failure, put your trust in God, that trust becomes faith and that faith becomes courage.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) fail, B) measuring, C) overcoming. IIA) criticism, IIB) ourselves, C) disappoint. IIIA) afraid, B) His, C) courage.