

THE DANGERS OF A SAFETY FIRST MENTALITY

SERIES: THE FEAR FACTOR

LUKE 9:57-59 GNV

57 As they went on their way, a man said to Jesus, "I will follow you wherever you go."

58 Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lie down and rest."

59 He said to another man, "Follow me." But that man said, "Sir, first let me go back and bury my father."

PSALM 107:23 KJV

23 They that go down to the sea in ships, that do business in great waters;

Revelation 21:1-4 GNV - **1** Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth disappeared, and the sea vanished. **2** And I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared and ready, like a bride dressed to meet her husband. **3** I heard a loud voice speaking from the throne: "Now God's home is with people! He will live with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them, and he will be their God. **4** He will wipe away all tears from their eyes. There will be no more death, no more grief or crying or pain. The old things have disappeared."

(Ps. 107:23)

The first man has a safety first mentality.

The second man has a hope of reward mentality.

There was a very cautious man
Who never laughed or played
He never risked – He never tried.
He never sang or prayed
And when one day he passed away
His insurance was denied
For since he never really lived
They claimed he never died.

PIC: DR. SEUSS' 10 TALES

The Zode in the Road of Dr. Seuss

Did I ever tell you about the young Zode,
Who came to two signs at the fork in the road?
One said to Place One, and the other, Place Two.
So the Zode had to make up his mind what to do.

Well...the Zode scratched his head, and his chin and his pants.
And he said to himself, "I'll be taking a chance
If I go to Place One. Now, that place may be hot!
And so, how do I know if I'll like it or not?
On the other hand though, I'll be sort of a fool
If I go to Place Two and find it too cool.
In that case I may catch a chill and turn blue!
So, maybe Place One is the best, not Place Two,
But then again, what if Place One is too high?
I may catch a terrible earache and die!
So Place Two may be best! On the other hand though...
What might happen to me if Place Two is too low?
I might get some very strange pain in my toe!
So Place One may be best," and he started to go.
Then he stopped, and he said, "On the other hand though....
On the other hand...other hand...other hand though..."
And for 36 hours and a half that poor Zode
Made starts and made stops at the fork in the road.
Saying, "Don't take a chance. No! You may not be right."
Then he got an idea that was wonderfully bright!
"Play safe!" cried the Zode. "I'll play safe. I'm no dunce!
I'll simply start out for both places at once!"
And that's how the Zode who would not take a chance
Got no place at all with a split in his pants.

(Ps. 107:23)

HOW TO OVERCOME A SAFETY FIRST MENTALITY?

I. REMEMBER THE FACT OF FAILURE. (Jas. 3:2 NLT)

James 3:2 NLT – "We all make many mistakes..."

Ecclesiastes 7:20 GNV - There is no one on earth who does what is right all the time and never makes a mistake.

II. REJECT THE FEAR OF FAILURE.

The difference between successful people and unsuccessful people is not that successful people don't fail. The difference is successful people never quit.

III. REJOICE IN THE FACE OF FAILURE.

Psalm 119:71 MT - My troubles turned out all for the best - they forced me to learn from your textbook.

PICS: EDSEL, MUSTANGS, SCARECROW

FACING YOUR FEARS

SERIES: THE FEAR FACTOR

PSALM 55 GNV

- 1 Hear my prayer, O God; don't turn away from my plea!
- 2 Listen to me and answer me; I am worn out by my worries.
- 3 I am terrified by the threats of my enemies, crushed by the oppression of the wicked. They bring trouble on me; they are angry with me and hate me.
- 4 I am terrified, and the terrors of death crush me.
- 5 I am gripped by fear and trembling; I am overcome with horror.
- 6 I wish I had wings like a dove. I would fly away and find rest.
- 7 I would fly far away and make my home in the desert.
- 8 I would hurry and find myself a shelter from the raging wind and the storm.
- 9 Confuse the speech of my enemies, O Lord! I see violence and riots in the city,
- 10 surrounding it day and night, filling it with crime and trouble.
- 11 There is destruction everywhere; the streets are full of oppression and fraud.
- 12 If it were an enemy making fun of me, I could endure it; if it were an opponent boasting over me, I could hide myself from him.
- 13 But it is you, my companion, my colleague and close friend.
- 14 We had intimate talks with each other and worshiped together in the Temple.
- 15 May my enemies die before their time; may they go down alive into the world of the dead! Evil is in their homes and in their hearts.
- 16 But I call to the Lord God for help, and he will save me.
- 17 Morning, noon, and night my complaints and groans go up to him, and he will hear my voice.
- 18 He will bring me safely back from the battles that I fight against so many enemies.
- 19 God, who has ruled from eternity, will hear me and defeat them; for they refuse to change, and they do not fear him.
- 20 My former companion attacked his friends; he broke his promises.
- 21 His words were smoother than cream, but there was hatred in his heart; his words were as soothing as oil, but they cut like sharp swords.
- 22 Leave your troubles with the Lord, and he will defend you; he never lets honest people be defeated.
- 23 But you, O God, will bring those murderers and liars to their graves before half their life is over. As for me, I will trust in you.

Sides of Fear

1. Healthy fears protect us.

2. Harmful fears paralyze us.

(Ps. 55:3-8)

2 Samuel 15:12 GNV - And while he was offering sacrifices, Absalom also sent to the town of Gilo for Ahithophel, who was one of King David's advisers. The plot against the king gained strength, and Absalom's followers grew in number.

(Ps. 55:2-5)

How often, oh how often,
In the days that had gone by,
I had stood on that bridge at midnight
And gazed on that wave and sky!

How often, oh how often,
I had wished that the ebbing tide
Would bear me away on its bosom
O'er the ocean wild and wide!

For my heart was hot and restless,
And my life was full of care,
And the burden laid upon me
Seemed greater than I could bear.

Excerpt from The Bridge - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

CLIP: Dear God (1:02)

PIC: Dear God

(vs. 12-14)

Everyone needs to...

- Divert daily
- Withdraw weekly
- Abandon annually

(v. 16)

The answer to the fear factor is in the faith factor.

- Fear of your future? (v. 2) Answer: v. 22

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV – For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

- Fear of your foes? (v. 3) Answer: v. 19
- Fear of your fate? (vs. 4-5) Answer: v. 18