

Making Disciples *As You Go*  
Lesson Eleven: Character Fundamentals  
Being a Person of Courage

I. Introduction:

This morning we are going to consider the essential character quality of courage. Specifically we are going to consider the importance of courage in the face of \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_.

The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe. (Proverbs 29:25)

II. Being a Person of Courage:

Let us begin by considering Saul, Israel's first king.

➤ See 1 Samuel 15:10-33

- The fear of man begins with an unbiblical sense of \_\_\_\_\_ (vs.17).
- It results in a sinful willingness to \_\_\_\_\_ what is right (vs.24).

A. The Fear of Man:

Definition of the "Fear of Man"

To fear man is to be afraid of someone, to hold someone in awe, to be controlled or mastered by someone, worshipping other people, putting your trust in other people, or needing people.  
- Ed Welch

The primary sin involved in the fear of man is \_\_\_\_\_. We are seeking from people what we are to find in Jesus.

Q. What are some Biblically legitimate needs? What are some unbiblical needs that can lead us to compromise and sin?

Q. How can parents fear their children? How can one spouse fear the other spouse? How can church leaders fear their members (what aspects of "disciple-making" do you find most intimidating)?

The result of this people-idolatry is that who we fear eventually \_\_\_\_\_ us. It tells us how to think, how to act, how to dress, and how to feel. We never expect that using people to meet our needs will leave us \_\_\_\_\_ and dependent upon them.

Do you fear man? How would you answer the following questions?

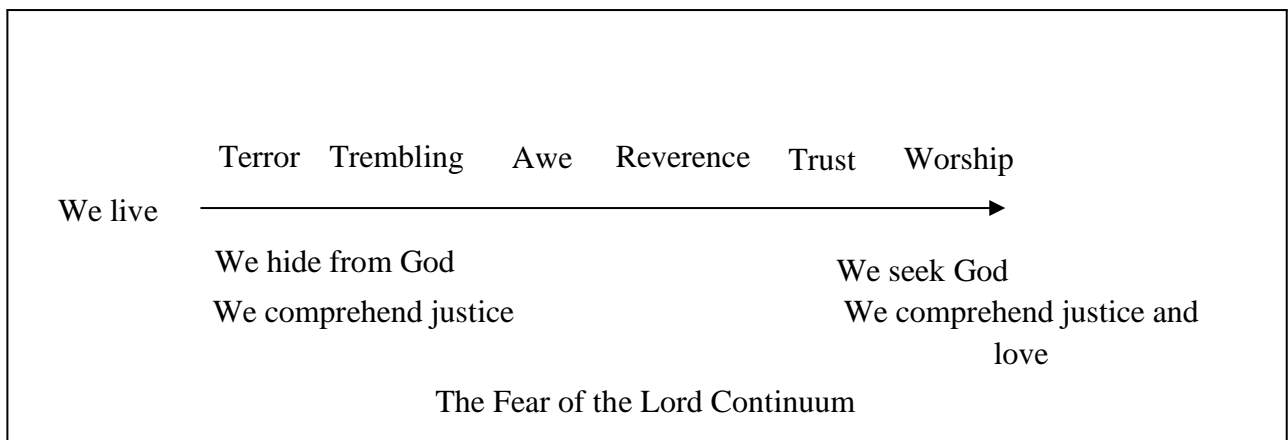
- Do you have trouble saying “no” to people when you have legitimate reasons to do so?
- Are you overcommitted?
- Do you fear disappointing people or letting them down?
- Are you known as a “people-pleaser”?
- Do you need people to like you?
- Do you have a secret sin that you fear being exposed?
- Do you need people to stroke your ego?
- Are you focused on your reputation and on what other people think about you?

Our problem is that we need people for ourselves more than we love them for the glory of God. The solution is to need people \_\_\_\_\_ and to love them \_\_\_\_\_. That’s possible when we learn to fear the Lord.

B. To Fear God:

Definition of the “Fear of the Lord”

To fear God is to be afraid of God, to hold God in awe, to be controlled or mastered by God, to worship God, to put your trust in God, or to need God.



Q. How can creation help us to fear the Lord? How can the Law help us to fear the Lord? How can the Gospel help us to fear the Lord?

<sup>3</sup> And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. <sup>4</sup> In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. <sup>5</sup> For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. <sup>6</sup> For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 4:3-6)

The fear of man can be boiled down to three things:

1. We fear people because they can \_\_\_\_\_ us and humiliate us but God covers the shamed with the righteousness of Christ.
2. We fear people because they can \_\_\_\_\_ us but God accepts us in Christ.
3. We fear people because they can \_\_\_\_\_ or threaten us but God shelters us and protects us.

### III. Conclusion:

We learn to fear the Lord through the pages of Scripture because it is through the Bible that we most clearly see the Gospel of Jesus Christ. We will best serve our families and our church when our identity, confidence, hope, and worth are rooted in Jesus. He alone is able to meet our needs and if we truly fear Him we will have no need to fear anyone or anything else.

<sup>5</sup> Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup> So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:5-6)

### IV. Homework:

Memory Verse for the week:

The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe. (Proverbs 29:25)