

Becoming like Jesus in our faith (Based on Chapter 25 of *Costly Grace*)

The Big Idea

Our fears help us identify where we're having trouble trusting Jesus.

Biblical Foundation

So do not be afraid of people. ... Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather be afraid of God, who can destroy both body and soul in hell. ... So do not be afraid; you are worth much more than many sparrows! Matthew 10:26-39 (TEV)

Fear is based on the false belief that God is not big enough to handle the things in life that are bigger than us. Our fears reveal our faith, or lack of it.

Jesus brings us to a choice: Will we trust God or will we trust *our own fears*?

Faith should set the agenda

When we make choices based on our fears, we let fear set the agenda. God wants faith to set the agenda. As you make a decision, ask, "Am I making this decision out of fear or out of faith?" How would that question have changed some of your decisions in the past?

Faith should shape our lives

In Jesus, we find an uncommon safety that promises God is present even when we face our greatest fears.

Discuss these statements:

- My fear is a signal that I am not trusting God. Ask, "God, why am I afraid? What is causing my fear?"
- Jesus says I should not fear and that means I have a choice. I can choose to respond in faith instead of fear.
- "The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that" (Proverbs 29:25 MSG).
- "When I am afraid, I will trust in you. In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I will not be afraid. What can mortal man do to me?" (Psalm 56:3-4 NIV)