

Jesus Passed By

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John 9:1 And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth.

- I. Jesus passed by...
 - A. These are also the last words of the previous chapter; He passed by and went away from the Jews who were trying to kill Him.
 - B. We are always passing by, also; life is a series of situations, people, places, and events that we are passing through, always moving and changing.
 - C. What are we seeing and thinking as we “pass by?”
 - D. As Jesus passed by those that had stones in their hands to kill him He saw a blind man.
 - 1. This is a statement to the goodness of Jesus and shows us what He was like.
 - 2. When you find out what people see, what they are looking for, then you can know what kind of person they really are.
 - 3. Most people look only for worms in everyone and everything, but here is a Savior that looks for God and his glory in everyone and everything.
 - E. Almost all people are so taken up with their own problems that they are not watching or noticing the problems and troubles of others.
 - 1. His life is in peril, but fear is not a factor in his thoughts at all and never was.
 - 2. His tomorrow, or next week, and its needs are not even a consideration for Him; He does not live in the realm of thought.
 - 3. Men in such a situation are likely to see only what concerns themselves and their own safety, and that is because they are fearful.
 - 4. The disciples were full of fear: they feared the storm, they were full of fear when they saw Jesus walking on the water, and when He rebuked the wind, the women were afraid at the tomb of Jesus,
 - 5. Fear is the motivation behind most of what people do.
 - a) Herod feared, the Pharisees feared, the Jews feared, those who came to Jesus for help feared, every decision made by all who were involved in the crucifixion of Christ was made out of fear.
 - 6. Fear is man’s first response to the unknown, to any proposal of change, to any new thing, to any perceived threat.
 - 7. Fearfulness equals lack of faith:

Mark 4:40 And he said unto them, **Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith?**

- 8. Last mention of the word in the Bible:

Revelation 21:8 **But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.**

- II. Imagine a life without fear.
 - A. Imagine making decisions based on faith instead of fear.

- B. Jesus said in Matthew 6:25-34 to take no thought for our life, our raiment, for our food, or for tomorrow.
- C. He said we should rather, “seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness,” and all those things would be added unto us.
- D. What would it be like to be free from fear completely?
- E. There is only one thing to fear that is God.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

- F. If we fear God we will not fear man, or anything else in this world.

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

- G. Fear blinds us to the needs of others and puts the focus of our mind upon ourselves.
- H. The words “Fear not” in some form, are probably the most mentioned admonition from the Lord in the Word of God.

III. The application is obvious: if we are going to be like Jesus then our life must not operate in the realm of fear.

- A. Our eyes cannot be controlled by fear.
 - 1. In other words, what we are looking for cannot be motivated by fear, or any concern for ourselves.
- B. Our decisions cannot be made under the influence of fear, but of faith, and faith that is founded in the Word of God.
- C. Our motives and desires cannot be influenced by fear, but by faith in God and the love of God shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost.
- D. This is how and why missionaries like John Patton, and Adoniram Judson, and Hudson Taylor and so many others went to such dangerous places to preach the Gospel.
- E. They saw the blind man, just like Jesus saw that day.
- F. They saw others perishing and suffering for eternity, which was a far greater tragedy than anything that could possibly happen to them, and they knew that was the reason they were on this earth,
- G. Their faith was greater than their fear.
- H. How do we measure up when compared to them, or more importantly, to Jesus?
- I. Think about the decisions you make, or those you are pondering right now.
- J. Think about what you see when you “pass by” through the crowds of people in this world.
- K. If we really want to be like Jesus we will lay down our life, quit fear altogether, and look around us at the need, and do something about it.
- L. Jesus was one man; He did not form an organization and solicit support and help, and stress over the fact that He was the only one doing anything.
- M. He simply did what He could where He was, all the time.
- N. He never missed an opportunity, and He never passed anyone by, because He was watching for them.
- O. How could the world be changed if those who claim his name were really like Him?