

LESSON 3.1 • FEAR OF RISK

OUTLINE

- I. Many people fear the unknown because there is risk involved.
 - A. If you really have a dynamic relationship with God, you don't need to fear the unknown (1 John 4:18).
 - B. God is never going to do anything to hurt you.
 - C. He's always going to do things to bless you.
 - D. You don't need to fear starting over again.

- II. Some people are just afraid to do anything.
 - A. That's why they're failing—they are playing it too safe.
 - B. Second Kings 7:3-9 is a good example of this.
 - i. The Scripture says that the four lepers said to each other, "*Why sit we here until we die?*"
 - ii. They decided to take a risk and go to the enemy, knowing that the worst thing that could happen to them is that they would die.
 - iii. If we looked at this choice from an unemotional, logical standpoint, we would see that this was the smartest thing for the lepers to do.
 - iv. When the lepers got out there, the Lord caused the Syrians to hear the sound of an army, so the Syrians panicked and fled, leaving behind all their possessions.
 - v. Instantly the lepers went from a state of poverty and starvation to being the richest people around.
 - vi. It was all because they took a chance by going out and facing the possibility of losing their lives.

- III. Fear of failure is a big deal.
 - A. We limit God when we are afraid to step out and do something because we think we might fail.
 - B. I believe that the biggest failure is when we play it too safe because we are afraid of making a mistake, but we will all make mistakes.
 - C. If we're afraid of doing something because we may not do it perfectly, we'll never get anything done.
 - D. It's better to actually step out and believe God and, if we fail, let God pick us up and dust us off so we can get up and go again.

- IV. The world is looking for God.
 - A. They are looking in all the wrong places, and one of the reasons is because the people who are born again aren't living in the fullness of their God-given calls.
 - B. Your life should be a testimony.
 - C. If you would catch on fire for God, the world would come and watch you burn!

- V. We need to recognize that God made us for a purpose.
 - A. All of our trophies and achievements aren't going to seem like very much if God says, "I created you for this, and you never did it. You never believed Me."
 - B. We may not have resisted God's purpose for us, but because of a fear of failure, laziness, fear of change, or other reasons, we may not have really embraced it.
 - C. But God wants to do something special in our lives.

- VI. There is no place like being in the center of God's will.
 - A. Any reasons you may have for not doing the will of God are not good enough—they are wrong.
 - B. Being in the center of God's will is the safest, happiest, and most beneficial place to be.
 - C. I am not going to live anywhere else but where I believe God wants me to be, and you should do the same.

- VII. If you feel that God has put something in your heart, do it!
 - A. Maybe you aren't ready to do everything He's told you right now, but at least start moving in that direction.
 - B. If you aren't completely sure of what God told you to do, put some motion to your boat, even if it's not full steam ahead.
 - C. You must find and actively pursue God's purpose in order to have the real joy and peace of the Lord.
 - D. There is a holy dissatisfaction that God places on the inside of you when you're off-track—when you know there's something more.

ANDREW'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER STUDY

When you start moving, God will give you direction. Commit yourself to doing something. If nothing else, commit yourself to discovering God's will for your life. I have a teaching entitled *How to Find, Follow, and Fulfill God's Will*. This will be a great tool to help you find God's will for your life. You aren't going to fulfill His will accidentally; you have to do it on purpose.

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DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

1. True or false: Many people fear the unknown because there is risk involved.

2. Why do you not need to fear starting over again?

3. Why are some people failing?

- A. They aren't trying hard enough
- B. They didn't say the right prayer
- C. They are playing it too safe
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

4. *Discussion question:* What lessons can you take from the story of the lepers and apply to your life?

5. True or false: If you know you will make a mistake, it's better to play it safe.

6. *Discussion question:* Why do you think Andrew says that is it better to step out and believe God and, if you fail, let God pick you up and dust you off so you can get up and go again?

7. Why do people in the world either not find God or look for Him in the wrong places?

8. Your life should be a _____.

9. *Discussion question:* What do you think has kept you from embracing God's purpose for you?

10. Any reason you may have for not doing God's will is what?

11. Being in the center of God's will is the _____, _____, and most _____ place to be.

12. *Discussion question:* Why should you not live anywhere else but where you believe God wants you to be?

13. True or false: If you believe God has put something in your heart, the best thing is to do it.

14. If you aren't ready to do everything He's told you right now, at least start _____ in that direction.

15. When does a holy dissatisfaction come on you?

- A. When you see man's unrighteousness
- B. When you're off-track from God's purpose
- C. When you can't find the right Bible
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

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SCRIPTURES

1 JOHN 4:18

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

2 KINGS 7:3-9

And there were four leprous men at the entering in of the gate: and they said one to another, Why sit we here until we die? [4] If we say, We will enter into the city, then the famine is in the city, and we shall die there: and if we sit still here, we die also. Now therefore come, and let us fall unto the host of the Syrians: if they save us alive, we shall live; and if they kill us, we shall but die. [5] And they rose up in the twilight, to go unto the camp of the Syrians: and when they were come to the uttermost part of the camp of Syria, behold, there was no man there. [6] For the Lord had made the host of the Syrians to hear a noise of chariots, and a noise of horses, even the noise of a great host: and they said one to another, Lo, the king of Israel hath hired against us the kings of the Hittites, and the kings of the Egyptians, to come upon us. [7] Wherefore they arose and fled in the twilight, and left their tents, and their horses, and their asses, even the camp as it was, and fled for their life. [8] And when these lepers came to the uttermost part of the camp, they went into one tent, and did eat and drink, and carried thence silver, and gold, and raiment, and went and hid it; and came again, and entered into another tent, and carried thence also, and went and hid it. [9] Then they said one to another, We do not well: this day is a day of good tidings, and we hold our peace: if we tarry till the morning light, some mischief will come upon us: now therefore come, that we may go and tell the king's household.

JEREMIAH 29:11

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.