

Coach House Church BEACONS

RISK AND REWARD

19TH MAY 2020

Many of you might remember the Lethal Weapons movies of a few years back. In these movies there was a good safe cop who did things conservatively, by the book, who wasn't in to taking unnecessary risks. Then there was the character played by Mel Gibson who was always taking risks. He would jump off of buildings, fight anyone, and do just about anything that involved taking a risk.

Interestingly enough, later Mel Gibson would take a risk of his own. He would risk his own money, his reputation and his status in Hollywood in an attempt to make a film portraying the Passion of the Crucifixion of Christ. Many people warned him not to do it and many warned him that it would fail and it would cost him dearly. No company would pick up and finance the film, so out of his own money, Mel Gibson made his movie. Folks said he was crazy for doing it, but this was something that he felt God was calling him to do, so he put it all on the line, risking a great deal to be faithful to something he felt God was calling him to do. He took a risk, and he has been rewarded for it.

Maybe this morning God is asking you to take a risk.

Maybe this morning God is asking you to take a risk. Now it may surprise you, but God does want you to take certain risk. In fact, Not only does He want it, He demands it. In the parable of the talents, Talents were a currency of the day. the person who was given one talent did nothing with theirs but hid it out of fear, and Jesus said that the master came back and called him a wicked and lazy servant for not taking a risk with it. Lazy we can understand, but wicked?

God has entrusted us with so much and has given us so much, we can't just sit on it...He expects us to take certain risk for Him. It's risky for us Christians to step out of

our comfort zones and attempt the impossible for God, but that's what we are called to do.

We call it stepping out in faith. Now maybe that is easy for you. By nature you are a risk taker, but many of us fall into the category of safety seekers, and that is good, but God calls us on occasion, to step out of our comfort zones and take a calculated risk of faith. And maybe after today, you will take that risk in your life.

In Matthew 14, the disciples had been ministering all day and were exhausted. They had just witnessed a miracle where Jesus fed 5,000 people with only 5 loafs of bread and 2 fish, and no doubt it was a day of highs and now as the day came to a close, Jesus sends the disciples away to the other side of the shore as He goes to pray.

Now what was supposed to be a simple trip ends up taking longer then they expected. Now I'm pretty good with directions but I have been known to get lost on occasion and when a trip is supposed to only take a few hours ends up taking about 6 hours I start to get a little feisty and irritated, especially if I've had already had a long day.

During the fourth watch of the night, between 3 and 6 a.m Jesus began to make His way to the disciples. Now remember, they had been traveling between 9 and 12 hours for what should have been a short trip. The wind was blowing hard against their boat. Their lives weren't in danger, but they had been blown off course and were probably frustrated, tired, and irritable.

It's a ghost.....

Now imagine the scene, the wind is blowing, its dark, and the disciples are struggling to get their boat to go and they look and they see a figure taking a casual stroll on the water. Now how did they react to this? Verse 26 says, "When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified." It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear."

Fear can keep you alive by keeping you from doing some stupid things, it keeps most people off of cliff walls and away from the edge of tall buildings. The Disciples are afraid, not a big deal, and perhaps pretty normal.

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid." Have you ever noticed the number of times Jesus is telling the disciples not to be afraid. It seems that the disciples are always either scared or asleep. Now this is where we come to the part I like. Peter is going to ask to come out and walk on the water to Jesus.

He is asking to do something he knows is impossible. HE has been around water all his life. He has probably never seen the lake frozen over and people walking on it. He wants to be close to Jesus and he asked the impossible.

It seems that when people read this scripture they forget the request and the first step and they only remember that he sank.

People we should applaud Peter because, in this passage, Peter did something that the other 11 disciples didn't do. Peter got out of the boat. Peter took a risk of doing something that he had never done before, something that even you and I personally know is impossible for us. Peter does this because he wants to get to Jesus. He takes a risk, just to get close to Him.

They were fearful.

Now I've asked myself many times why the other 11 didn't try to walk on water as well and I've found that the main reason that I come up with is similar to the reasons why we fail to take steps of faith in our lives today. They were fearful. The winds were blowing, the waves were no doubt crashing, they thought Jesus was a ghost and the waves were too big! I think the greatest fear they had was that they would fail. They might step out and sink to the bottom. But let me say, I would rather be a failed water walker than a boat potato any day.

And many of you might be afraid to take risk in your life because you are afraid you might fail. But the good things in life come only when we are willing to go out on a limb and take that risk. I remember how scared I was when I first asked Bekah if I could kiss her. We hadn't been close for very long and I was terrified. What if she said no, what if she smacks me, what if, what if.

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Now many of us are so fearful of taking risk that we never get to experience many of life's wonders and joys. And there is no telling what God can do through us if we can just overcome our fears and step out in faith for Him. Maybe you have a wonderful testimony of what God has done in your life, but you are so afraid of speaking that you keep it to yourself. Think of how many people are missing out on that blessing because of your fear. We all grow when we share the stories of what God has done in our lives.

Now what is God calling you to do today. Is He asking that you risk possible embarrassment of talking to that neighbour? Is He calling you to volunteer for some form of ministry within the church? Is He calling you to to commit your life to Him? What ever He is calling you to do, remember that if you want to walk on the water, you have to get out of the boat. And you may sink, Peter did. But Christ picked him up and boy did he have a story to tell his grandchildren. The story of how with the Help of Jesus he did something impossible.



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