



2020 April Series: Fearless Church

Message #4 – The Fearless Church's Potential

Getting the Nod

Pre-Sermon Video: **That's My King Remix**

If a frightened world needs to see a fearless church, then the fearless church needs to see their Faithful King!

Illustration of an 1800's Scandinavian Priest and King Louis the 14th: There was a preacher in 19th century Scandinavia who, in the lobby one Sunday morning, heard that the King would be present at worship. Understandably rattled he ditched his well-prepared sermon and spoke on and on about the Christian virtues of their King. Even though the King said nothing after the service the preacher could not help but wonder if he would receive some reward for his loyal support. Sure, enough sometime later an exceptionally large crate was delivered to the Church. Immediately the priest concluded that his reward had arrived. He pried open the crate to find inside a life-sized crucifix. He could hardly contain his disappointment "We've got lots of crucifixes already," he thought. As he looked inside the crate, he saw a letter under the royal seal. Excitedly he opened it. The letter contained the king's instructions as to the placement of the crucifix in the Church. It was to go on the western wall of the Church so that the preacher would always be reminded of which king he should be speaking. Not King Louis XIV of France. **A frightened world needs to see the King of Kings!** (From a sermon by Jason Jones, Highly Favored, 12/7/2009)

Transition: Quote on Stars in Darkness: It is in the darkness that stars are best seen; and it is in a fearful season that a King shines!!! Long live the King!!!

Connecting Us

If a frightened world needs to see a fearless church, then the fearless church needs to see their Faithful King!

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary describes a King as:

1. One that holds a position of total preeminence.

- What is the definition of preeminence? The quality of being superior. The highest status or distinction and considered to be the best at anything. No compatible rival.
- **His resurrection is His Coronation:** NLT | Col 3:1-2 **Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand.** 2 Think about the things of heaven, not the things of earth.

2. One that is worshipped out of deep respect.

- **Proskuneo** is the Greek word that means to kiss the hand in token of **reverence**. to fall upon the knees and touch the ground with the forehead as an expression of profound **reverence**. It means DEEP RESPECT!
- NLT | Lk 24:52 **So they worshiped him** and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy.

3. One in total control of a major area.

- And what area is He in total control?
- NLT | Mt 28:18 **Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth.**
- That’s why we call Him the King of Kings!!

Transition: And our King has given us 5 things that make us fearless...

God’s Take of Being Fearless

Five things the disciples discovered that forever made them fearless.

1. The potency of the resurrection - vs. 36-43

NLT | Lk 24:36-39 **And just as they were telling about it, Jesus himself was suddenly standing there among them. “Peace be with you,” he said. 37 But the whole group was startled and frightened, thinking they were seeing a ghost! 38 “Why are you frightened?” he asked. “Why are your hearts filled with doubt? 39 Look at my hands. Look at my feet. You can see that it’s really me. Touch me and make sure that I am not a ghost, because ghosts don’t have bodies, as you see that I do.”**

Jesus showed them He had conquered the grave. Jesus showed He wasn’t a ghost or figment of their imagination, but He was truly alive among them! A Savior who had once for all conquered sin, Satan, death and hell.

Jesus showed them He wouldn’t abandon them. After proving His resurrection, He did not go to those who mocked Him... He came first to those He loved most and who loved Him the most!!

Jesus showed them that faith in Him is dependable. “If Easter is not true, then all things perish: body, soul, hope, faith, ambition, love, toil; nothing matters but the thrills of a temporal existence. But if Easter is true, then all problems are solved. The strain and sacrifice of earthly life become worthwhile because eternal values are added.” - Anonymous

Paul expressed it this way:

“And if Christ has not been raised, our preaching is useless and so is your faith.” - 1 Corinthians 15:14 (NIV)

“And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.” - 1 Corinthians 15:17 (NIV)

“If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead . . .” - 1 Corinthians 15:19-20a (NIV)

Application: The resurrection is the largest portrait in the living rooms of our hearts!!! **Long live the King!!!**

2. The legacy of the cross - vs. 44-45

NLT | Lk 24:44-45 **Then he said, “When I was with you before, I told you that everything written about me in the law of Moses and the prophets and in the Psalms must be fulfilled.” 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures.**

The first prophecy ever given by God to man tells of the necessity of the cross: NKJV | Ge 3:15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel.”

The resurrection highlighted the value of the cross. We have in the Holy Scripture, an array of prophecies (Over 300) which extend over hundreds of years and yet find their complete fulfillment in the short thirty-year life span of one person, Jesus of Nazareth, **many being fulfilled in one day, the day that He died for the sins of the world.**

No doubt, this was part of what Jesus pointed out to the two disciples on the Road to Emmaus! So, they would understand the significance of the cross.

This the legacy of the cross:

- It is the center of the Gospel story.
- It is conquered sin and death.
- It vanquishes the devil.
- It is our substitutionary gift.
- It is foolishness to the world but our most valuable treasure.
- It brings peace, reconciliation, and unity.
- It is the marching orders of God’s Church!

3. The urgency of our task - vs. 46-48

NLT | Lk 24:46-48 And he said, “Yes, it was written long ago that the Messiah would suffer and die and rise from the dead on the third day. 47 **It was also written that this message would be proclaimed in the authority of his name to all the nations, beginning in Jerusalem: ‘There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.’** 48 You are witnesses of all these things.

Our task as the fearless church is to proclaim His name to every nation.

Our task is to share the reality of sin and its forgiveness. An old story says that when Jesus ascended to heaven, the angels asked, “Did you accomplish your task?” “Yes. It is finished.” “We have a second question,” said the angels. “Has the whole world had a chance to respond to what you have done and trust you as Savior?” “No,” he said, “not yet.” “What is your plan?” Jesus said, “I have left 12 men and some others to take that message to the whole world.” The angels looked at each another, down to the earth, then back at Jesus. “What is your Plan B?” Jesus replied, “There is no plan B.” **Christ has entrusted the Gospel message to us!**

To those who are watching... have you accepted Jesus’ invitation to make Him the Savior?

4. The Authority of our power - v. 49

NLT | Lk 24:49 “And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.”

Our fearlessness is empowered by the Holy Spirit. The means whereby we can fulfill our mission as the people of god is by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Or fearlessness is given to us after we tarry for Him. “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses . . .” - Acts 1:8 (NLT)

A child in science class was asked to fill an eight-ounce glass with water. The teacher then poured four ounces of sand into the glass. Of course, half of the water ran over the sides and was lost. The

teacher was revealing the Law of Displacement... that's where two substances cannot occupy the same space at the same time.

Application: The same is true of us, spiritually. If the Savior's first in our life, the Spirit can empower us to live lives of power, promise and purpose. But if we have made ourselves first, it will lead to lives of weakness, from weakness to worry, and worry to wandering in sin.

5. The expectancy of our future - vs. 50-53

Our future is a blessed future with eternal life. NLT | Lk 24:50-53 Then Jesus led them to Bethany, and lifting his hands to heaven, he blessed them. 51 While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up to heaven. 52 So they worshiped him and then returned to Jerusalem filled with great joy. 53 And they spent all of their time in the Temple, praising God.

Our future is not stationery, but revolutionary. "As they strained to see him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. **'Men of Galilee,' they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven?** Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!" - Acts 1:10-11 (NLT)

Our future is on the horizon. NLT | 1 Th 4:16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. 17 Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. 18 So encourage each other with these words.

If you want to know the signs of the times... keep an eye on the three J's: The Jews; Jesus's words; and Jerusalem. He's coming back soon!!

Transition: This frightened world needs to see a fearless Church that has a Faithful King! But do not forget that our Faithful King is returning... Stay faithful so we can be fearless!

Drawing the Net



The Feast of the Ascension is celebrated in Morocco each year. The people celebrate the anniversary of the ascension of their king to the throne. Moroccan cities and villages all prepare each year for this celebration. Flags are placed in prominent places in businesses and homes. Lighted pictures of the king appear along the streets. Strings of lights crisscross main streets in the cities and villages. Lighted crowns are in evidence on top of buildings and along the streets. The entrance to main streets has special lighted effects covering- large arches. Palm branches cover the arches to complement the lights. But here is the kicker... the king only goes but to one city; nevertheless, all the cities prepare. They don't want to be embarrassed should he visit them.

Our King is coming. We know this to be true just as certainly as we know the resurrection to be a fact. We don't know when, but we are told to be ready for His return. For we do not want to be embarrassed when He returns.

"And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come." - Luke 19:13 (KJV)