



Jesus gave His disciples a mission. He did not choose them and disciple them just to help them grow spiritually and become better people. Jesus chose them to be disciple-makers!

As Jesus taught His disciples, it is apparent that fear in His disciples was a serious concern to Him.

Mark 4:35-40

35 On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side."

36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him.

37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling.

38 But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"

39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm.

40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"

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This question from Jesus was a rebuke.

Why did He reprove them? Why didn't Jesus say something like, "I am so sorry that you had this terrifying experience. I am so sorry that you are suffering from fear. This is so hard!"

Why didn't Jesus coddle them?

In this story, Jesus is like a drill sergeant preparing his soldiers for combat. Their enemy is their fears!

Jesus knew that if they were defeated by fear, they would not complete their mission.

Jesus once told them a story in which fear caused a servant to be unfaithful to His mission because he was afraid.

Matthew 25:25

25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.'

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Jesus knew that His disciples would not complete their mission to be disciple makers if they were afraid!

This has not changed!

Fear is an unpleasant feeling of insecurity that is caused by the perception of impending danger. This impending danger can be real or imagined.

There is nothing we can do to totally avoid fear. It is natural to experience fear when someone or something threatens us or those we love.

But Jesus knew that if His disciples did not overcome their fears, they would not complete their mission and be disciple makers.

Jesus solution was always the same when He saw fear in His disciples.

[Mark 4:40](#)

[But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"](#)
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Jesus also called no faith unbelief.

[Mark 16:14](#)

[14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.](#)
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Jesus rebuked His disciples for their unbelief more than any other sin He saw in them.

Why? He knew that if they did not have faith in Him, they would live in fear. If they lived in fear, they would not complete their mission and be disciple makers.

Currently, our world is experiencing a pandemic called Covid-19. This pandemic has caused an emotional pandemic that has infected more people than the Covid-19 virus. It is the pandemic of fear!

Because of fear, our government has forced its citizens to give up our personal liberties. These liberties include our economic, civil, and religious liberties.

The results have been catastrophic to our society. The shutdown of businesses and the shelter in place orders has caused the unemployment rate to rise to 14.7%, the highest unemployment rate since the great depression.

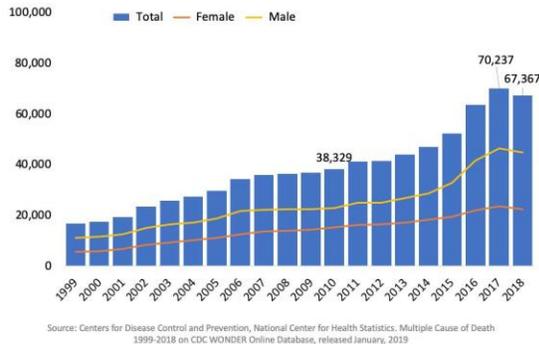
This unemployment increase will be difficult to reverse because so many companies have gone bankrupt. These companies include JC Penney, Neiman Marcus, J Crew, Pier 1 Imports, True Religion, Stage Stores (which operates hundreds of stores across 42 states under banners including Stage, Bealls, Palais Royal, Peebles, Goody's and Gordmans) Gold's gym, the restaurant group that owns Bravo and Brio restaurants, various entertainment groups, and various major petroleum companies.

Our society is just beginning to experience an increase in another crisis created by the economic crisis. New York City is the epicenter of the covid-19 pandemic in the United States. Over the last 28 days, the number of murders has spiked. Murder has increased by 55 percent in the last month: 28 murders vs. 18 in the same period last year.

We know that as economic stress increases in families, domestic violence increases; substance abuse increases; suicide increases.

Dr. Berta Madras, a psychobiologist with Harvard Medical School and McLean Hospital, “I think the isolation, the stress, the fear, the lack of social supports, are all feeding into another storm, that’s brewing for people with substance use disorders. I’m very concerned about it.”

Figure 1. National Drug Overdose Deaths
Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2018



Experts say the long-term ramifications of the coronavirus i.e. the lack of routine, job loss and overall anxiety, could create a wave of relapses that might mirror the spike in overdose deaths seen in 2016. (63,600 deaths in 2016) They have started to call these cases “deaths of despair” and indicate that those who struggle with addiction will feel the social and economic impact of COVID-19 the hardest.

I am personally concerned about how this pandemic of fear is destroying the lives of those who do not know Jesus.

But my greatest concern is about the fear I see in the disciples of Jesus. If we let fear control us, we will not complete our mission to those who need it most. We will not be disciple makers!

I believe Jesus is saying to His church....

[Mark 4:40](#)
"Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?"
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Jesus rebuked His disciples for their fear and unbelief in Him during that storm. They had been firsthand witnesses to His power. Jesus had demonstrated to them how much He cared for them. They knew the prophecies about the power of the messiah in the Old Testament. He was physically with them in the boat.

How much more should we trust Jesus and carry out our mission during this storm? We have more revelation about Jesus than His disciples had received.

Here is what we know that they did not know at that time.

- Jesus died for the sins of the world and rose again.

- Jesus ascended into heaven and rules over heaven and earth.
- Jesus calls all who believe in Him to be disciple makers.
- Jesus sends His Spirit to live in His disciples to enable them to carry out their mission.
- Jesus will return and establish His Kingdom on the earth.
- Jesus will judge the world.
- Jesus will give His followers a new heaven and earth where they will be with Him forever.

Because of the gospel of Jesus Christ...

- We should not fear death. (1 Corinthians 15:50-58)
- We should not fear suffering. (Romans 8:28-29)
- We should not fear man and man's opinions. (Galatians 1:10)

We should trust Jesus and carry out our mission (Matthew 4:19; Matthew 28:19-20)

The Covid-19 virus is very deadly for a small percentage of our population. We would be wise to take precautions. But there is a vast difference between taking precautions and abandoning our mission.

I put on my seatbelt when I drive my car. I honor traffic laws. Those are precautions. I could still die in an accident. 38,800 people died last year in the USA. A total of nearly 170,000 people died due to some kind of accident last year. But we should not live in fear and abandon our mission because we could die in car accident.

I shower every day and wash my hands frequently during the course of a day. Saundra washes my cloths daily. Saundra cleans our house well. I take vitamins every day. On occasions, I now wear a mask. Those are precautions. I could still die from the flu. 34,200 people died from the flu during the 2018-2019 flu season. But we should not live in fear and abandon our mission because we could die from the flu or any other contagious disease.

For over 35 years I have been preparing a message from the bible every week to share the gospel with people. I am constantly developing relationships with new people and sharing the gospel with people. I have also traveled all over the world to share the gospel. Most people I share the gospel with reject the gospel and many reject me. The moral laws in the bible are no longer popular in the USA. Every six minutes, a Christian is killed because of their faith. We take precautions. We pray. We have armed security in our building. We have metal locks and video cameras to protect our staff during the week. But we should not live in fear and abandon our mission because of persecution.

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the solution to all of mankind's emotional and behavioral problems. (Shame, Fear, Resentment, Grief)

Colossians 2:9-10

For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power.

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Galatians 5:22-23

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
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Are you living like you have received the gospel of Jesus or are you living in fear?

Have you resolved in your heart that following Jesus is a cause worth dying for?

Jesus did it for you?

Hebrews 12:1-2

1 Therefore we also, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily ensnares us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us,

2 looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
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Will you do for Him?

Church, will you trust Jesus Christ and fulfill your mission?

Have you received the gospel of Jesus Christ by putting your faith in Jesus?