

ALL SIGNS POINT TO JESUS
NOTHING TO FEAR BUT FEAR ITSELF - John 6:16-21

Introduction: According to a November 2023 Gallup poll, 40% of Americans are afraid to walk alone at night near their homes. Concerns about being victimized by specific crimes, such as having their cars stolen or homes burglarized, are near record highs. Fear of crime prevents most Americans from engaging in many routine activities, such as visiting entertainment venues and participating in social interactions. However, the Bible states that “God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment” (2 Tim. 1:7). When we trust God, He can strengthen our resolve, increase our love for others, and grant us wisdom enough to overcome fear, while we take the necessary precautions to protect ourselves, maintain social interactions with loved ones, and handle the less-than-ideal circumstances life presents.

I. JESUS PRESENTLY KNOWS ABOUT _____ vss. 16-18.

“It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them” (vs. 17)

“The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing.” (vs. 18)

- _____ **when dark times are coming (John 6:16a).**

Charles Albert Tindley wrote, “*We are often tossed and driv’n on the restless sea of time; Somber skies and howling tempests oft succeed a bright sunshine; In that land of perfect day, when the mists have rolled away, we will understand it better by and by*”.

II. JESUS’ PRESENCE _____ - 19-20

“When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat and they were frightened.” (vs. 19)

- The disciples’ minds were focused on _____ until they saw Jesus.
- His presence got their minds off _____ and onto Him.
- Even then, they were still afraid until _____ them that it was Him.

“But he said to them, ‘It is I; do not be afraid.’” (vs. 20)

- God’s presence not only gives us peace, but _____ as well.

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33).

“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.”— John 14:27

How is Jesus' peace not like the world's peace?

1. The World's Peace is External; Christ's Peace is _____.
 2. The World's Peace is Temporary; Christ's Peace is _____.
 3. The World's Peace is Conditional; Christ's Peace is _____.
 4. The World's Peace is Shallow; Christ's Peace is _____.
- The world says, *"Peace, when everything is calm around you."* Jesus says, *"Peace, because I am with you—no matter what's happening around you."*
 - Jesus said, "I AM, don't be afraid," reminding us of when, in response to Moses's question of who was sending him, God replied, "I AM WHO I AM" (Ex. 3:14).

III. JESUS'S PRESENCE BRINGS _____ – (vs. 21)

- We often learn more about Jesus in the _____ than when we're _____.

Then they were glad to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat was at the land to which they were going. (vs. 21)

- The key to navigating the storms of life and solving many of our problems is simply to _____.
- *The word "...**immediately**" reminds us of the joy of having Jesus on board, which can cause a situation to end quickly and make a long struggle feel short.*

Conclusion: "Nothing to fear but fear itself" is a famous phrase from President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1933 inaugural speech. The phrase suggests that if we face our fear rather than allowing ourselves to be paralyzed by it, we can find solutions, take action, and accomplish great things. Fear ruled a man's life for thirty-two years. Afraid of being caught for crimes he had committed, he hid at his sister's farmhouse for over three decades. He went nowhere and visited no one, even missing his own mother's funeral. When he was sixty-four years old, he learned that no charges had ever been filed against him. If he had faced his fear from the beginning, perhaps he wouldn't have lost thirty-two years of living. What are you afraid of? God has not given you a spirit of fear. Don't let your fears control you! We must face them. Don't serve a life sentence because you allowed fear to imprison you.