

8/27/17 | Set Free: Free From What Others Think



"The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?"

—Psalm 27:1 | NIV

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Have you ever had to speak publicly? What did you feel like?

2. Consider this quote and statistic. Not every survey puts public speaking as the #1 fear, but social anxiety usually hits close to the top of the list. Why is that? Do you feel that way?

"The #1 human fear is "Public Speaking: Most of us are self-conscious enough when we leave the house, often perceiving that people are watching us, judging us for a fashion faux pas or some extra holiday weight around the middle."

—Dr. Michael Reese

Speaking

3. Read Exodus 4:10-16. What was Moses worried about? What does this story tell us about God using imperfect people? If we don't have the power or ability, will God reject us? Did Moses ever stop being afraid? Read his words in Exodus 14:14.

4. Read 1 Samuel 18:6-12. How is Saul's fear similar to Moses's? How is it different? How could he have reacted instead? Why do we let people's words have such power over our lives?

5. Read Luke 12:11-12. What are the promises Jesus makes? How is this comforting? Who really controls our words? Do we need to fear anything?

Past and Present

6. Read Psalm 118:6. How does this verse apply to worrying about what others think?
7. Read Isaiah 43:1-7. Why does God tell Israel to not be afraid? Do these reasons still apply today?
8. Read Romans 8:15. Does God want us to be afraid? What did He do for us to save us from fear?
9. Read John 15:18-19 and 1 Peter 3:13-14. Is there a difference between not being afraid and never being in danger? Should we expect others to think poorly of us? What should our response be?
10. Read John 4:6-8. Why does the Bible tell us what time of day it was? What can we assume about the Samaritan woman? What must her life have been like? Do you think she had a fear of public speaking?

John 4:9-27. What was the woman's reaction to speaking to a Jewish man? What living water did Jesus offer?

John 4:28-30, 39. What was the woman's response to Jesus's message? Was she afraid? What changed her? How did her neighbors respond?

When you hear the message of Jesus, how do you respond?

TAKEAWAY: Who are you in Christ Jesus?