

UNTIL I RETURN

Based On the Book by Jeff Walling

Lesson 1 - *Don't Be Afraid*

Intro: Read John 13:31 - 16:33. What is the setting of this passage?

What is so important about this passage?

What important fact did Jesus share with them in 13:33?

What was their reaction? Do you think Jesus' words changed the mood of the gathering?

How would they make it without Jesus at their side? (This question has challenged every believer since Jesus went to Calvary)

*We, like Jesus' disciples, are/were existing in an "in-between time" where we/they had said goodbye to a life of human aims, but not yet said hello to an E_____ in a divine place! What did Paul say about this in Philippians 1:21-26?

In this troubling time, Jesus shared some words with His disciples that they would need until he returned. They were words of C_____ (Jo.14), words of W_____ (Jo.15:5-12), words of E_____ (Jo.14:13-14,15:13-16), and words of C_____ (Jo.15:18-25,16:2-4).

WORDS OF COMFORT

1. Read John 14:1. We see Jesus' first words of comfort. *Let not your hearts be T*_____. (Do not be afraid!) Living w/o fear allows us to take control of our feelings.

Living w/fear causes us to grow accustomed to constant worry about lives and souls.

Living w/fear means resigning control of our lives.

Living w/fear robs us of our joy and causes panic.(Our minds invent dangers)

When fear controls our faith it _____!

2. Fear Has Always Been Connected to Sin! How did fear play a part in the following examples?

- Adam & Eve (Gen.3:1-10)
- Saul (1 Sam.15)
- David & Bathsheba (2 Sam.11)
- Peter (Gal.2:11-14)

3. Fear Can Cause Us To Lose Our Focus!

- Adam & Eve's loss of focus caused them to forget God's G _____, God's P _____ and L _____ and only remember their own W _____.
- Peter started to sink when he lost his focus on _____.
- Our spiritual loss of focus hurts our G _____ in Christ.
- Fear's weakness is our ability to move in a different D _____ than fear wants us to go.

4. Conquering Fear Is A Matter of Choice!

- What did Jesus mean when He said to "fear the Lord" in Luke 12:4-7?
- God's presence does away with fear. (See Psa.23:4, Isa.12:2)

** The fear of hurting feelings may try to stop us from disciplining our children.*

The fear of straining relationships might seek to keep us from sharing our faith in Jesus w/a friend.

The fear of being vulnerable could hamstring us when we move to confess our faults or admit a wrong.

*** When we choose to fear the Lord, there is nothing else of consequence left to fear!*

Jeff Walling