

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Fear // Fear of Rejection

Pastor Marcus Lane

May 29, 2022

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What is something you regularly do in order to control your image?

Reading: Acts 5:7-11

Outline:

- I. Fear of losing control cultivates hypocrisy (Acts 5: 7-8)
 - a. Our desire for control stems from a self-righteous desire to be seen in a certain way, both by others and by God, which causes us to pretend to be something we're not.
 - b. Because Grace says we can't do anything, it liberates us to admit who we really are. Hope for our sin comes from admitting we are sinners and need God to forgive us.
Q: In what ways are you hiding your true self from others or from God?
- II. Fear of losing control resists the Spirit (Acts 5: 9)
 - a. Our hypocrisy and resistance of repentance is resistance of the Spirit. It is a refusal to submit to the work of the Spirit.
 - b. We do not have control of the Spirit. Having our lives shaped by the Spirit means giving up control and opening ourselves to what the Spirit wants.
Q: How can we practice letting the Spirit have control within our daily lives?
- III. Fear of losing control leads to death (Acts 5: 10-11)
 - a. Fear of losing control ultimately ends in death. If we refuse to submit to God and the work of the Spirit, we'll die.
 - b. Fear of God, on the other hand, humbles us. It causes us to see that the only hope for our lives and the life of the world is the perfect display of his power on the cross of Jesus.
Q: How can reverence for God's power help free us from our obsession with control?

Reflection/Application Questions:

1. What areas of your life do you struggle with the fear of losing control?
2. Have you ever experienced the damage that fear of losing control can cause?
3. How might being rescued from this fear lead you to love God and love others more?
4. What would it look like for you to depend less on yourself and more on God's grace to work in your life?

Suggestions for further study:

- John 3:6-8 **Q: How does the work of the Spirit invite us to give up control?**
- 2 Corinthians 12:8-11 **Q: How does God show Paul where real power is found?**

Closing Prayer:

Father God, remind us of your complete and definite control. Forgive us for the times we seek control for self-righteous and worldly reasons. Guide our hearts to fear and revere You so that we may see ourselves in the way You see us. Let us give complete control to the Spirit so that we can admit to our sin and be open to Your work. In Your name we pray. Amen.