

THE ANATOMY OF AN EPIC FAIL

September 14, 2018 Proverbs 29:25 by Bob Branch
Experiencing The Passion of Jesus, part 3

Why did Peter deny Jesus? What are you afraid of?

MAIN IDEA: Let's explore some different sides of fear—from healthy fear to unhealthy and even sinful fear and what to do about it.

What are you afraid of, and why are you afraid?

“He got up, rebuked the wind and said to the waves, “Quiet! Be still!” Then the wind died down and it was completely calm. He said to his disciples, “**Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?**”” **Mark 4:39-40**
(Mat. 17:6-8; Mark 5:35-36)

Some fears are healthy and important.

“So the women hurried away from the tomb, afraid yet filled with joy, and ran to tell his disciples.” **Matthew 28:8**

Peter's fearful response: the “fear of man.”

“The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is safe.” **Proverbs 29:25** ESV

“If you are afraid of people, it will trap you. But if you trust in the Lord, he will keep you safe.” **Prov. 29:25** NIRV

“When Samuel reached him, Saul said, “The Lord bless you! I have carried out the Lord's instructions.” But Samuel said, “What then is this bleating of sheep in my ears?” ... Why did you not obey the Lord? Why did you pounce on the plunder and do evil in the eyes of the Lord?” “But I did obey the Lord,” Saul said. “I went on the mission the Lord assigned me... But Samuel replied:

“Does the Lord delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? To obey is better than sacrifice... Then Saul said to Samuel, “I have sinned. I violated the Lord's command and your instructions. I was afraid of the men and so I gave in to them.” **1 Samuel 15:13-14, 19-20, 22, 24**

“The spirit of beguilement is an insidious thing!”

“God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” **2 Timothy 1:7** NKJV

“Fear corrodes our confidence in God's goodness. We begin to wonder if love lives in heaven.” **Max Lucado, Fearless**

There is no one-size-fits-all answer to fear. Start here:

- **Identify**—What am I afraid of? (Mat. 14:29-30)
- **Ask/Anatomy**—Why am I afraid? (Mark 4:39-40)
- **Look up** to the Lord, away from fear the Lord. Trust that he is present, and knows our needs. (Phil. 4:6-7)
- **Surrender**—Bring it to Jesus, release it to him. (1 Pet. 5:7)
- **Renounce**—Come out of agreement with it. (2 Cor. 4:2)
- **Agree**—with what God thinks and says about you. (Job 22:21; Amos 3:3)
- **Imagine**—What would I do if I weren't afraid? (Eph. 3:20)
- **Act**—Take the step out. Is there anything I can do about it this very moment?