

0 (2s):

Well, welcome everybody. I'm so glad that you guys are here today. Welcome. My name is Matt Wolf. If you're online or here in person, we love you. I love you. I'm so glad that you guys are here. Did you guys to see us in the news? Did you guys see us in the news? Isn't that pretty cool? Yeah, we were in the, in the front page or the front porch. I've thought that was really cool with some, a really cool photo of our outdoor service. I think that was a cool thing, you know, and with Arise we took that from the verse, our, our new name. We took that from the verse, Isaiah 60 and, and it says there Arise shine. You know, we're supposed to shine. We're supposed to be known. We're supposed to, to let God's love being known in the community. And I think that's pretty cool. Like right when we changed the name, boom, everybody gets to see it. This right. So that's a pretty cool, I'm glad about that. If you haven't, you check out the front porch a newspaper, you can go online and find it as well.

0 (45s):

Share this article with someone say, Hey, did you see our church? It's cool. At least for today. It's cool. Yeah, you can check it out. So yeah. I'm glad you guys are here. That's really good. We are wanting to be bold. Right? Bold outreach is one of our values here that we are boldly sent to seek in love. The last I was going to fill you in on some Christmas details, but, but that's probably coming. So just wait on that. But we have,

1 (1m 10s):

We need to do a couple of things that are really bold this year. So just stay.

0 (1m 13s):

And for that, I hope that you guys are really excited because Christmas Eve is one of our biggest outreaches to the entire year. We see our second highest attended service of the year on Christmas Eve. Last year we saw 575 people in our three in-person services were probably not going to see that many people in person this year. Right? Let's be honest. We get it. People are nervous. They're afraid. Maybe they would come on a normal year. But they're like, I don't know, but they would participate perhaps. And that's what we're going to be talking about in the weeks ahead. And it's going to take every single one of us because we want to deliver hope to every home. And we believe that we can do that this year with your help here in this area. And I think it's going to be really cool. So just stay tuned for that. We are gonna continue our series untangled today with a second week. If you missed week, number one, you can go back to Arise denver.com/media to find the audio or video and the transcript.

0 (1m 56s):

There is no reason to miss anything. You can subscribe. Get it sent straight to your phone. Read it, listen to it, watch it to all three. Hey, that's cool too. Okay. But whatever it is. Join us a and make sure that you haven't missed any of this. Year's if you do, you can go back and listen to part one. So today we're going to talk about these fears that we're entangled in. And I have a confession to make guys I put in my Christmas lights, all ready?

1 (2m 21s):

I did. I put up my Christmas lights on Friday.

0 (2m 24s):

Yes. Thank you. I got one a bug. Anybody else? Crazy enough. Yes. The Napier's Oh, Trisha too. Over here. Yeah. All right. First service. He was like me and chase. And I'm like, that's why I hired him, but we're, it's a little, this is way earlier than I ever have done it. But it was like, well, why not? It was 60 degrees on Friday. End of the day off time to get up there before the 60 mile an hour winds came and knocked me off the roof. So it got my lights up. And if you are going to be doing that in the next few weeks, putting up your Christmas lights, you are going to discover what you discover every year. No matter how much time you took wrapping those lights up. Like I did. I wrapped them all up really nicely. I, to the ends together, I put them in individually.

2 (3m 2s):

And yet what happens? They get so tangled up, right? No matter what

0 (3m 8s):

I think that there's like, like these, the mice go in there and like, Oh, I'm going to tangle it up. Like you don't even do anything. It just happens that they're tangled every year. And you got to unwind the lights and it's, it takes so long. We got to untangled without even thinking about it.

2 (3m 21s):

Stuff gets entangled. Right.

0 (3m 23s):

And what we're talking about is that is like our metaphor for this series. That they're our fears. They're our worries that have, that we have in our hearts. And that if we don't even think about it or plan it, it just gets entangled with our lives. There's all these worries we have last week, we talked about that, worry, that we want to look good in front of other people. And it causes us to do some things to even be hypocritical because the inside may not look as good as the outside, but we want other people too like us. So we talked about last week in this week, we're going to talk about this desire to fit in. It's very similar to the first week. I'll explain the difference in just a minute, but the desire to fit in this, isn't a stand out. So people like you in respect to you, but it's to fit in. So people don't make fun of you, right.

0 (4m 3s):

Or exclude you or do worse things too. You, we want to fit in and kind of hide in the back. Those are both kind of tied together by a very similar fear, but it gets wrapped so far into our hearts that it takes a while to untangle. And that's what we're trying to do because Jesus who we're going to read his word in Luke chapter 12 today, Jesus wants to untangle the mess. That is our heart. He wants to get all of those, those fears and

worries that are tangled up in there just to have to clean them out, to, to make it untangled, right? So that we can live the life that he is called us to. So this one that we're talking about is that fear of Fitting In. And I believe that that's a fear that we all have that fear of Fitting In, there's even been some studies that kids, as young, as kindergarten, worry about what their friends, you know, that the other kids

2 (4m 47s):

In our class, or going to think kindergarten starts that early.

0 (4m 51s):

We want other people to like us. So we're going to do whatever we can to fit in with the people that were with. And it continues on into adulthood, Oprah Winfrey, back in 2013, I heard her talk and she said that she had interviewed thousands of people, right? Thousands of people in it. And she's in her interviewed some very influential people like George W. Bush, Barack Obama, Beyonce. And she said after every single

2 (5m 12s):

The interview, they all say the same thing. Do you know what that is? What's that okay. They all lean up that way.

0 (5m 18s):

Is that okay? Because they want to, we want people to like him, they want to fit in with people. Even these people like Beyonce, like come on, right? She's got Beyonce NIS, right? She doesn't need to fit in, but yet she still wants to be okay

2 (5m 28s):

In the eyes of others. We do this don't we,

0 (5m 31s):

Jerry Seinfeld once a week put it well, it's very important for human beings to feel that they are popular and well liked amongst a large group of people that they don't care for.

3 (5m 43s):

Isn't that true

2 (5m 43s):

About us and that your about us? We do, you know, one of the interests

0 (5m 49s):

Things, you know, alphabet died this year, this last week, and I listened to his memoir. It was really cool that he recorded it this last, this last year. And it was interesting to hear him know, even talk after he is dead, but

D We. I like to listen to it and people do, because this is last word. Like he knows he is going to die. He is looking back in his whole life of 80 years. And, and you know, the share some insight, you know what we say in our last words are important. They're significant. And Bonnie ware, who was a palliative care nurse in Australia for 12 years recorded the last words of the patients that she cared for as they were dying, the last words, and she'd kind of summarized them up. And she found that of these patients that she cared for for 12 years, there were several regrets that kept coming back over and over again, these are regrets from their life.

0 (6m 33s):

Do you know what the number one regret was?

2 (6m 36s):

I wished

0 (6m 38s):

I had had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me. It's the number one regret that people had over and over again, they had this regret. And I think that we would say that about ourselves. Why did I care so much about Fitting In

2 (6m 55s):

Instead of

0 (6m 55s):

Being myself or as we are going to talk about today, who God has called me

2 (6m 58s):

To begin, why don't we hear so much about Fitting In

0 (7m 3s):

And that's what we're going to look at it together today, this, this fear, and we're going to be in Luke chapter 12, Luke chapter 12, verses one through 12. If you have a Bible, go ahead and open up there, or your smartphone online, you can do the same thing in another tab in your browser, perhaps. And as we look at Luke chapter 12, we're going to see Jesus

2 (7m 21s):

To attack this worry, and actually

0 (7m 24s):

Is gonna give us a recap of last week too, which is great for those of us who want to review, and then he's

going to get into it. But we're going to start in verse one. We reread, meanwhile, we're in a crowd of many thousands had gathered so that they were trampling on one. Another. Jesus began to speak first to his disciples.

2 (7m 42s):

We'll stop there for a second. Okay.

0 (7m 45s):

We often just skip over these little like details that Luke, our, our, our narrator, for this passage to the historian who wrote this down, we kind of skipped over that. But this is fascinating. There is a crowd of Many thousands of people trampling on each other. There are so many people out there to hear Jesus they're, they're pushing each other. You know, if you've ever been in a big crowd like that, it's uncomfortable. You're like, Oh my gosh, don't worry. There is no pandemic going on, but there's a whole crowd there. They're close together. They're sweating. They're on top of each other, the trampoline, each other. They all want to hear what Jesus has to say. And Jesus turns from the crowd and addresses his disciples.

2 (8m 19s):

Interesting. Right?

0 (8m 21s):

It gives you a message. That's not really for the crowd. Most of us would care about the crowd. Oh, of the big people will talk to the disciples later. No, no, no. He realized the crowd was there, but he had to say something to his disciples. It was important. And that's important to here. We realized that we have crowds on Sundays. You know, it's a little sparser in person than we're used to, but we have crowds of people. We realized that there are some of you here that are not followers of Jesus or not followers of Jesus yet. Maybe you're checking them out. You're just seeing how things are. Maybe you're online too. And you're kind of in hiding in the background. And you're like, I don't know about this whole Jesus guy. I don't know about church or Christianity. That's okay. If you're here, we're glad you can overhear This message. But This message like Jesus did is where the disciples.

0 (9m 2s):

So you can overhear this, this message and for you. So if you're not a follower of Jesus, just kind of sit back, relax just over here. If you are kind of coming too, to see like, do I agree, or do I not? Do I believe this? Or do I not? That's fine. You can overhear because then it will help you make a decision about whether I want to follow this Jesus guy or not. But this message isn't for you. If you are a disciple on the other hand, this message is for you. So if you're here and you are a follower of Jesus, this message is for you in particular, because Jesus wants us as his followers to be freed from this fear of man. And I'll get to that concept in just a second. So he begins by saying in the second half of verse one, be on your guard against the yeast of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy.

0 (9m 47s):

Now, if you weren't here last week, then Jesus was talking to these Pharisees, these religious leaders, there is a fair season and there was the teachers of the law. These guys are the religious leaders. They were the pastors, they were the deacons. They were the Bible scholars of the day. And Jesus was talking to them and he really laid in to them than any. He rebuked them, Whoa, to you, what, what are you? He gave him six different things that they were doing wrong, that their hearts were wrong. And overarching picture of it was that, that he cared more about looking righteous, looking generous, looking respectable and important in the eyes of others. Then they cared about their own heart and Jesus called them out for it. And then the big point that he was giving last week was our, was our big idea. And he's kind of reiterating it here. Isn't he? He, he is saying basically that we should focus, not on looking good on the outside, but on being cleaned God on the inside is not about looking good on the inside, but beyond clean But being by being transformed on the inside.

0 (10m 41s):

That was the big idea. Jesus gave too the Pharisees last week. And he's recapping that for his disciples. Now, maybe they weren't at that dinner that he was at, but he was like, Hey, this is what I told him. What's on the inside matters. Your heart matters. How it's entangles with all this mess of the world, all these fears and worries matters. I want to get you untangled. Jesus is saying, and notice how he says a couple different things in verse one, he says, and your guard be on your guard and saying, watch out. Why? Because on your own, if you don't pay attention, you will get entangled in this. Your heart will get wrapped up in all of these fears and it will lead you to have sin in your heart.

0 (11m 22s):

You have to be on your guard. If you're not on your guard is going to happen. Naturally, just like you're lights are going to get all tangled up together just because they're in the garage and those mice are tingling them up. And he's also says against the yeast of the Pharisees what's yeast. Well, you put the yeast in the dough. You need the dos, it gets spread around. And then that yeast spreads throughout the dough, of course, causing it to rise. So this hypocrisy that we have, that we want to look good on the outside. It, it can be a very, at first, a little bit of a heart wants to look up on the outside, but it expands. It goes everywhere and overwhelms our lives. That's what Jesus is saying. And that's why as he goes on in verses two and three, that he says, there is nothing concealed.

0 (12m 6s):

He says that we'll not be disclosed or hidden that we'll not be made known. What'd you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight. And once you have whispered in the ear and the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the

2 (12m 19s):

It moves. He is telling his disciples. We care about the inside.

0 (12m 24s):

'cause what is on the inside will be made known on the outside. There will come a day to everything that you are hiding, that you are whispering, that you are afraid. Other people will know about. You will all be made known. That's why we care more about the inside than the outside. We don't focus on looking good on the outside, but on being cleaned by God, transformed by God on the inside,

2 (12m 46s):

Right to Jesus is saying here,

0 (12m 49s):

And this can happen naturally in our life. Do you remember back a few years ago with the Ashley Madison scandal? Do you remember this? Ashley Madison was an online dating service for people having affairs. So it is four. And all of a sudden, boom, there is a data breach. All the data got put out there. So all of these people are trying to hide the fact that they were having a fair, all their names were known.

2 (13m 11s):

I mean,

0 (13m 12s):

What was the way it is destroying people's reputations and everything. But what was on the inside is now being made known on the outside, right? So that happened sometimes in our world is a sin that we've been trying to hide and keep a secret boom. Everybody knows.

2 (13m 25s):

But what

0 (13m 25s):

Jesus is saying is that for everyone, it will happen. What happened with those people that scandal a few years ago is going to happen with everyone, everything that you have done in the secret, in the hiddenness of your heart, the sin that you have, the things that you've done behind closed doors or in the bedroom, that's all going to be made. Known is going to be brought to the light. What is spoken in a second? So Jesus is saying, Hey, the sin of your heart is important. Even though other people can't see it, it matters private sin will be made public

2 (14m 1s):

It's

0 (14m 1s):

Jesus saying there will be a judgment day. There will be a judgment day. So there is a day to every single one of us will stand before the judgment

2 (14m 10s):

Seat of God and everything.

0 (14m 12s):

We have done. Every word we have said,

2 (14m 15s):

It will be laid bare. It will be seen. We can't hide from it. This is the reality to Jesus is saying,

0 (14m 23s):

So he's building reviewing off the last week. But then this fact that God is our judge is going to be so important as we tackle the concept of where that fear of man, the desire to fit in. And that's what Jesus is going to talk about next. So we reviewed last week, right? I love it. Even Jesus did this, right? He reviewed last week's message. And now he's jumping into this week's message about our fear of man, our desire to fit in with others. Because how the heck do we get over that? Well, Jesus is going to tell us how to deal with that internal fear in our hearts. And it starts in verse four, verse four. He says, I tell you, my friends do not be afraid of those who kill the body.

0 (15m 2s):

And after that can do no more. He said, don't be afraid of anyone who can murder you. I'm paraphrasing. But that's what he said, right? Don't be afraid of anyone who could murder you.

2 (15m 14s):

And we're like, what?

0 (15m 16s):

That's what she's saying. Don't be afraid of anyone who can murder you, who can murder you. Anybody. Don't be afraid of human beings. He's saying who cares, what they can do to your body. So this is the extreme example of the fear of man. Now I used that term cause its kind of an old term. It's been around a long time by a Bible teachers and theologians the fear of man. And I don't mean by that, that I'm excluding women in this. Okay. It's a fear of mankind of humankind. The people around you are talking about humans in general, the fear of man. So as I used that term, I'm not trying to exclude women at all

2 (15m 49s):

Right. You guys are tracking with me.

0 (15m 50s):

So the fear of man is this fear of what other people will do to you. It can't be the extreme that Jesus says. What if they murder me? Okay, that's the extreme. But it has a whole range. 'cause it could be a murder or it could be. I'm afraid. What they'll think about me. I'm afraid what they'll say about me. I'm afraid that they might exclude me or do something to me. They might even fire me. They might cause me to, to have my reputation ruined. Heck they could even throw me in prison. So it's a whole range of This right? The fear of man is afraid of what people will do to me. And that's why we had this desire to fit in because of the fear of man, the fear of man here.

0 (16m 33s):

And that's what Jesus is talking about. But he says you don't need to worry about that. Fear of that internal fear. That's tangled up in your heart, that causes you to do all sorts of things. Say S all sorts of things. You don't need to worry about

2 (16m 42s):

It. Now

0 (16m 45s):

We will talk about murdering because that is part of what can happen to people who are followers of Jesus. Let's be honest. We need to talk about this. That Christianity is the most persecuted religion in the world.

2 (16m 56s):

Did you know that this

0 (16m 58s):

Was reported even by the wall street journal? A couple of years ago, every single year, Christianity is the most persecuted religion in the world. More people are killed because they claim the name of Jesus. And then for any other faiths in the world in the 191 countries in the world in 130, one of those countries, Christians face severe persecution by groups, or even by the government, a 130, one of our 191 countries.

2 (17m 23s):

Yeah. It's pretty intense

0 (17m 24s):

In our world at large one out of nine Christians face a severe persecution in Asia. That's one out of three, one out of three of our Christian brothers and sisters in Christ face, severe persecution, even things like being murdered, like being in prison

2 (17m 40s):

And for life tortured killed. So severe persecution is a thing.

0 (17m 46s):

But if we're honest in our country, it's probably not that bad,

2 (17m 51s):

But we still have the fear of man. Sometimes we even are more afraid than they are.

0 (17m 57s):

And I had one professor in it and he said, you know, in other parts of the world

2 (18m 1s):

And they fear the race fist here, we fear the raised eyebrow.

0 (18m 7s):

Okay. But the point is whatever this fear of man is, we all have it. And it goes back to a small fee

2 (18m 13s):

Too. Do you remember in middle school? Yeah, we are all wanting to fit in. Right.

0 (18m 18s):

I remember 'cause in fifth grade. I wore jeans that were kind of tight and air kind of scrunched up. Cause that's what people

2 (18m 25s):

In fifth grade when I was in the nineties. Right. But then I got to sixth grade. People did not wear those jeans anymore. They were jeans like This and that does anybody remember those jeans?

0 (18m 39s):

And I was so embarrassed that I had my normal tight scrawny jeans. So the first couple months when I realized everybody had different genes than me, right. I only wore shorts. I didn't care if it was freezing cold and snowing outside. And I had to walk to school. I would be wearing shorts because I didn't have cool jeans like This. And finally, when it was the first dance of the year, I went out and made my dad take me to the store and bought some big old baggy Lead pipes. God I never had a drink, goes like that, but I had Lead pipes. Anybody. He wore Lee pipes. If you were in middle school, in the nineties, you know what I'm talking about? Who had a hair were baggy jeans. Yes. Thank you. Okay. A few people, these are huge, right? The bigger, the better. And yet somehow that's how we fit in. And if some of you are like,

2 (19m 17s):

Gosh, how could you, okay. You are bell-bottoms

0 (19m 20s):

Okay. We all have things that we like wore that we were like, we look back and were like, we all are aware that what, okay. That was my thing in middle school, in the nineties to where a big old bag of jeans. But I wore them because I wanted to fit in. I didn't want to be made fun of, I don't want people to think that I was weird or whatever. I didn't wear them to stand out at all. That's for sure. I just want it to fit in with everybody else. And I think we all have done things like that, whether it's school and it leads all the way into later in life. Now, when we're talking about close, is it really that big of a deal? Probably not. In fact, it's probably fine to wear normal clothes that other people wear it. It's probably a fine thing. But we take that, that same fear, that little tiny fear that we have of what other people think we want to fit in with him. And we take that even bigger with things like our faith.

2 (20m 3s):

Well, people think I'm a weirdo. If they know I'm a Christian. Well, they think I'm strange. If I go to church, yes they will. And we're afraid of that. We're afraid of not fitting in and it causes us to hide. What's most important. See, this is good.

0 (20m 20s):

And the opposite of last week, last week is we wanted to stand out. So people would like us respect us here. We want to fit in. So they are,

2 (20m 27s):

Don't dislike us. Its kind of the two sides of the same coin, right?

0 (20m 32s):

But here. This fear of man leads us to desire, to fit in and to hide even our faith to hide. Even our faith. Let's keep reading and verses five

2 (20m 43s):

And six, but

0 (20m 45s):

He says, but I will show you whom you should fear. Fear him who after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes. I tell you, fear him. Now this is interesting because we were just talking about the fear of man. Now Jesus is saying, Hey, there's actually someone you should be afraid of. Don't be afraid of any man and a human being who can murder you are who you should truly be afraid of is the one who can send your soul.

2 (21m 15s):

It's a hell for eternity here. This

0 (21m 20s):

I am not mincing words here. Jesus didn't mince

2 (21m 22s):

Words. We're talking about hell. He said, don't be afraid of people hurting your body. Be afraid of the one who can send you to hell forever, because hell is hot. And eternity is a long time. That's who we should be afraid of. Jesus. Who are we talking about? God himself.

0 (21m 44s):

Why are you afraid of puny little human beings. All they can do is destroy your body. Be afraid of the one that we can

2 (21m 49s):

Destroy your soul for eternity.

0 (21m 53s):

And I know this makes us uncomfortable, right? We don't like talking about hell, but Jesus talked about hell more than anyone

2 (21m 58s):

Else in the entire Bible.

0 (22m 1s):

And the word he uses for hell here in the Greek is the word, get henna. The Valley of Hinnom. That's a real literary. It was, it was just outside of Jerusalem. It was this Valley and it was the dump. Everybody sent all their refuse, their all their junk, all their trash and they would send it there and they would burn it. There were fires going continually night

2 (22m 21s):

And day forever.

0 (22m 23s):

And it was even the place in the old Testament. When they, when God's people weren't worshiping God, but they were worshiping false gods and they went and they sacrifice their children. They would kill them. They're in this Valley. So this is an evil, awful place where there's burning fires all the time. There's worms

that are eating everything and destroying any, you know, organic compounds. It is a terrible, awful place. And Jesus uses that terrible, awful place that they all knew about as the metaphor for how

2 (22m 50s):

Terrible hell is.

0 (22m 54s):

He says, we should be worried about the God.

2 (22m 56s):

It will send you there because that is something about God that he is powerful and that,

0 (23m 4s):

And he, with less than a flick of a finger can send

2 (23m 7s):

You too. And Aternity of torment.

0 (23m 11s):

This is the God of the universe. Jesus is talking about. Why are you afraid of what people think

2 (23m 16s):

You should be afraid of what God thinks.

0 (23m 18s):

See this, this fear has had a God that has gotten. So entangles in our hearts is fear of man. This desire to fit in. It's gotten so entangled that we don't even realize what's important. But if we want to get untangled, if we want to find freedom from this worry, we need to realize that the fear of God,

2 (23m 35s):

This is us from the fear of man, this is great.

0 (23m 38s):

It's the same is actually the fear of God, a healthy, good Reverend fear of who God is. It frees you from caring. What other people think? Why do you care? Even if they hurt your body care about the one who

2 (23m 50s):

It could hurt your soul.

0 (23m 54s):

God frees us from the fear of man. Now I think this idea of the fear of God is something we need to talk about. We've talked about the fear of man. Now we need to talk

2 (24m 2s):

About the fear of God. What is the fear of God? This

0 (24m 5s):

Is not being terrified. This is not being terrified. It includes a reverence and an honor and respect for God. Okay. Let me explain it a little bit. Well, the historian David Macola wrote about Teddy Roosevelt. Okay. And in his early days that are, you know, the president Teddy Roosevelt In in his early days, he was terrified of going to Church. He is terrified of going to Church in New York and his mom asked him, why are you so afraid of going to church?

2 (24m 35s):

And he said, because of the zeal, because of the zeal

0 (24m 39s):

And, and this is why I was like, what, what are you talking about? And he's like, well, you know, the zeal it's hiding in the corners, in the dark of the Church and we'll see

2 (24m 47s):

To bring out and get you. And she was like, why are you talking about what's the zeal? Or are you

0 (24m 53s):

Terrified to go in a church? And he was like, you know, it's like a creature. I think it's something like an alligator or a dragon. She ready to get you

2 (25m 1s):

In each of you it's mom's like, where

0 (25m 3s):

Did you get this idea about the zeal? And Teddy Roosevelt is like, well, the preacher talked about

2 (25m 9s):

It. What? The preacher

0 (25m 12s):

Talked about the zeal. So his mom gets out of concordance with the Bible and flips through it. And it looks at

every verse that talks about the zeal. So when they look, come to the word zeal, she finally comes to one verse in John two 17. And this is what

2 (25m 23s):

The KJV said. The

0 (25m 25s):

Zeal of vine house half eaten

2 (25m 27s):

Me up. See,

0 (25m 30s):

She's afraid. He was afraid to the zeal thing would eat him up. You know, in the NIV, it says, the zeal of the Lord will consume you. Right? So he thought it was talking about something and he was terrified of going to church. And that's not the terror we are talking about here. Right? That's not, that's the terror of just being eaten up. Right? The fear of the Lord is something much greater than that. It does include an aspect of nervousness. Think about the judgment seat of God, of all your sins being laid back.

2 (25m 59s):

There's a fear in that

0 (26m 2s):

There's only a fridge. If it brings you that to that terror, if you don't know God and that he is good. Okay. In the Chronicles of Narnia, the Lord of the, the, the first one is the lion, the witch in the wardrobe. The very first book in that series, there's this lion figure. If you haven't read it or seen the movies, the lion figure is, is as land. And he is Christ he's Jesus. He is representing God, you know, in this, this whole series and the young girls had not met the lion, right? They were afraid of the lion. And when we finally were about to meet him, they, they were kind of scared. They were nervous. And Lucy, one of the young girls says, is he safe? Is the lion safe? And there's the talking beavers.

0 (26m 42s):

Of course, if you haven't the book, you don't know what I'm talking about. That there's these talking Beaver's and, and Mrs. Beaver says, Oh, your knees will be knocking But in. Mr. Beaver says safe. Who said anything about it?

2 (26m 54s):

Safe. He is not safe, but he's good. He's good. He's the King. I tell you,

0 (27m 3s):

See what matters is that, that King, that line is good. Yes. There is a nervousness. There might be knees knocking to it, right. There is a healthy fear of God. But if you know that God is good and you're okay if you know that he's on your side, you're all right. So the same thing, when you are around a police officer or someone in the military, and they have big weapons, they're trained in how to kill people. You could get a little nervous right on. But if they are good, if they are on your side, you're not.

2 (27m 34s):

Yeah.

0 (27m 34s):

And it's the same thing with God. There's a healthy Reverend fear for the God of the universe who could destroy our souls.

2 (27m 42s):

But if he's good and it's okay, it's good for me. And that is

0 (27m 48s):

The greatest thing about verses six and seven is Jesus goes there. Next. He says are not five sparrows sold for two pennies. You had not. One of them is forgotten by God. Indeed. The very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows think is really interesting. He says fear God and don't be afraid in the same couple of verses, right? Why is he saying this? Because the God of the universe who could send your soul to hell for eternity is the same. God who knows when one tiny bird falls on the ground, this God who could burn you and torment you forever in hell.

0 (28m 28s):

He sends you to that torment.

2 (28m 30s):

Is it the same? God who knows every hair on your head, whether you have a lot or you're only I have a few left.

0 (28m 37s):

God knows every single one. He knows when they fall. He knows when the birds in the air fall to the ground, he knows it, all of that. And how much more does he care about the human beings of a world that he created in a day?

2 (28m 46s):

Oh, he loves us.

0 (28m 49s):

He cares about us. He knows everything about us. Even though the hairs on our head and he doesn't want any of us

2 (28m 55s):

To go to hell. So this is

0 (28m 58s):

God. The universe cares about us so much. He loves us so much that he doesn't want us to perish, but instead sent his own son, Jesus. He was talking there to love us, to show us a perfect life and then to die in our place to suffer punishment, death and hell in our own.

2 (29m 19s):

God loves us.

0 (29m 21s):

And that love that goodness that God has for us makes it. So yes, there is a healthy fear, but that God's on my side. He is for me, he loves me. He cares about me and therefore all

2 (29m 36s):

Is okay.

0 (29m 37s):

That's why I'm Proverbs 29. Twenty-five we read that fear of man we'll prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord, he is kept safe.

2 (29m 48s):

We can get

0 (29m 48s):

Unentangled. We can get out of that snare. That is the fear of man, because of the fear of God, the fear of God frees us from

2 (29m 54s):

The fear of man, fear of God, frees us from the fear of man. And that's all what

0 (30m 1s):

We need to learn to, to nurture, to grow that fear of God, that reverence for God is God of the universe who

holds everything in his hands.

2 (30m 9s):

And that will free us actually a free us.

0 (30m 11s):

William Grinnell. The, an old preacher once said that we fear men so much because we fear God is so little

2 (30m 20s):

When you fear God, you

0 (30m 21s):

Don't have to be afraid of what people are gonna say about you. What people will do to you, whether you're going to lose your job. Even. Why does that matter? I have the God of the universe on my side, who loves me and cares about

2 (30m 33s):

That's, who I care about

0 (30m 36s):

The old German theologian. And I'm going to paraphrase a little bit of what he said. But he uses the analogy of a parent and God is our father. So he's the

2 (30m 44s):

Right. So a bad parent,

0 (30m 48s):

You will only fear there'll be a fear of this parent because what happens to the child who only has this fear of the parent what's going to happen is that the child will be terrified. They may be obedient, but they will be a useless little slave.

2 (31m 6s):

And if they are terrified all the time, okay,

0 (31m 11s):

Then, then maybe they do what they should. But they're terrified all the time. That's not a good, healthy choice.

2 (31m 16s):

That's not a good healthy child. And on the other side is

0 (31m 21s):

A parent that only gives

2 (31m 22s):

Love. And there is no fear

0 (31m 25s):

As a parent. That's only like, I love you. I want to show kindness and goodness, the child will just do whatever they want and they will become irresponsible. They will become lazy cause they can get away with it. There'll be a brat.

2 (31m 36s):

Let's just be honest.

0 (31m 39s):

Just fear. Just fear from a parent Leeds, a child to be just this subservient little slate.

2 (31m 45s):

And on the other hand, just love and kindness and everything is okay and the child will be irresponsible

0 (31m 52s):

<inaudible> and a brat. Okay. A healthy parent should instill a little bit of fear in their child. There are consequences for the decisions you make and I'm going to let you feel the natural consequences and bring you some other countries is a coincidence so that you can learn it now and not have to experience it later. Yeah,

2 (32m 6s):

The wife and they will

0 (32m 9s):

Loved that child so much so that when they do mess up, they will show kindness and forgiveness again and again, Hey, it's both. And that creates a child who knows what's right. Who lives in a healthy way and has respect and love. It's not a slave, but eventually becomes a,

2 (32m 25s):

A friend. So that's who God is. He's the guy

0 (32m 29s):

God that we should be afraid of. There should be a true fear and reverence before this God. But we also know that he loves

2 (32m 35s):

Us and cares about us.

0 (32m 38s):

And that is the best parent we ever hope for. That is our God of the universe. And he's shown to us in Jesus Christ.

2 (32m 49s):

So what do we do about it?

0 (32m 51s):

What do we do about it? If we're, if the fear of God freezes from the fear of man, what are we supposed to do? Well, Jesus actually gives us some application

2 (32m 58s):

And he is a great preacher for st. She is. I tell you,

0 (33m 2s):

Whoever publicly acknowledges me before others, the son of man will also acknowledge before the angels of God. But whoever disowns me before others will be disowned before the angels of God. Jesus is saying, you need to go public with your faith,

2 (33m 19s):

Right? If you

0 (33m 20s):

Acknowledge me before those, if you tell others that you follow me, that you believe in me, that you love me at the end on that day of judgment, Jesus will say, I know him. I love him. He is forgiven and accepted in spite of all the junk he's done. But if we deny God, if we deny the Jesus is the son of God, we don't claim him as our Lord and savior than on that last day, God will say depart from me. I never knew you.

2 (33m 49s):

How are you

0 (33m 50s):

Publicly acknowledged? They are a decision about who Jesus is, is probably the most important thing we will ever decide. And Jesus says, we have to go public with it. Faith. According to Jesus is never supposed to remain a private thing. Sure. It's supposed to completely transform your inside your heart. Right? We learned that last week, but it also must come out and be known publicly. We don't pretend publicly to be a Christian. We are privately transformed. And now we publicly step into this faith to let others know that we believe in Jesus. That's why we celebrated so much. When two people went public with our faith and baptism last week, right? That's what baptism is faith going public. It's not some magical water that washes away your sins.

0 (34m 32s):

It represents the God is transforming on the inside, but now you're going public with your faith. And it was amazing to see those people go public. They're saying, I know that it could lead to consequences in my life.

2 (34m 42s):

Maybe people will

0 (34m 43s):

Think less than me. Maybe they'll make up things about, maybe they'll say stuff about me behind my back. Maybe I'll lose some friends. Maybe I'll lose a job. Maybe it won't be able to get the license in my field. Maybe I'll even get killed because of it. I mean, that's one of the things Jesus said is a promise that Jesus gives you the us is that we will be hated. He promised that to his disciples. In fact, the apostle Paul says anyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ, Jesus will be persecuted. It's a promise to us. We don't like claiming that promise. This is stick with Jeremiah 29 11. I know the plans he has for him. He plans to prosper me, right? We love that verse. We don't claim the one that he's got and we're going to be hatred. But Jesus is saying, Hey, there might be small consequences. There might be huge ones.

2 (35m 25s):

But if you're going to

0 (35m 26s):

Follow me, you have to go public with your faith. From last week, we already had two new people. Fill out the form to get baptized the next time we're going to do it. I'm so excited about that. If you're here and you've never gone public with your faith, that's the way to do it, to share it to the

2 (35m 38s):

World. That yes, I believe

0 (35m 40s):

So. Some of you, that's what you need to do. You need to go to a rise. denver.com/baptism to fill out that

form. Others of you perhaps have already done that. But are you public in all your

2 (35m 51s):

Relationships with people that you're a follower of? Jesus.

0 (35m 54s):

We always talk about that. Faith has taking a step. What's the step for you to publicly acknowledge Jesus

2 (35m 58s):

For others, perhaps it's

0 (36m 2s):

To tell a family member that you've never told, perhaps it's to talk about it openly at work. And if you're nervous or worried about that. Well, Matt, I'm not supposed to do that at work. No, we're all allowed to do that at work. Okay? There's just might be specific rules about how you do it, but everyone in every profession in our country can talk about their faith. That's why we have the first amendment. It's a great right. It may lead to consequences though. I'm not denying that it may lead you to be ostracized, to be kicked out of a clique. You might not fit in. Well, you may lose out on promotions. You may even have your career destroyed,

2 (36m 37s):

But Jesus

0 (36m 38s):

Is saying to us, the fear of God

2 (36m 40s):

Frees us from the fear of man. We are supposed to step out in faith.

0 (36m 44s):

So I want you to think about it. Is there people that don't know I believe in Jesus, is it my neighbors? Is it coworkers? Is it someone at the gym? Is it some other students at school or whatever it is, I encourage you and challenge you to take that step of faith to publicly acknowledged

2 (36m 58s):

Jesus before others, as a Jesus is calling us to do

0 (37m 4s):

Verse 11, which is a great encouragement. First 11. It says, when you are brought before synagogues, rulers

and authorities do not worry about how you will defend yourself.

2 (37m 14s):

Is that what you will say, four, the Holy spirit will teach you at that time, what you should say.

0 (37m 19s):

So we are saying, don't worry about what other people say or do to you. Even if you're on track

2 (37m 23s):

And all four of your life to Holy spirit will help you.

0 (37m 27s):

It was even that promise. That's an, that's a good promise that scheme, that one, right? The Holy spirit will help you in those hard moments when you're like, Oh my gosh, I think all is lost. I don't fit in anymore. People hate me.

2 (37m 38s):

The Holy spirit will be with you to lead you, to do what you're supposed to do. So that's why we can boldly go out and take that step of faith to publicly acknowledged Jesus before others.

0 (37m 50s):

What have you here today though? Have never done that. You've never publicly said that you followed Jesus and maybe you've had your faith private,

2 (37m 58s):

But you're ready to do that today.

0 (37m 59s):

I want to encourage you to make that declaration public, even by just declaring the Jesus is Lord. So what I'm going to do right now as I have the, the, the band come up, I'm going to give you an opportunity to say a prayer. I'm going to pray for all of us as well, because in Romans 10, nine and 10, Romans 10, nine, and 10, it says that if you declare with your mouth, Jesus is Lord with your mouth. You got to say it publicly, right? If you declare with your mouth, Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead you will be saved for. It is with your heart that you believe in are justified. And it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are

2 (38m 31s):

There is a public aspect to our faith.

0 (38m 33s):

So we're going to, we're going to have that opportunity and what I'm going to do. And as we close this time to pray for everyone to hear that we can take that step of faith to go public and not care about Fitting. In so much. But what I want to do is to lead a prayer. That if it's your first time to accept Jesus as your Lord and savior that you will say that, but then I'm going to have every single one of us save that Jesus is Lord out-loud right. We could do that with your online. Maybe you could type that in. Okay. Are we here in person and say it out loud? Even at home, say it out loud. We're going to go public with our faith today. Every single one of us who are

4 (38m 59s):

The followers of Jesus. So let's pray, Lord God This.

0 (39m 4s):

This whole series is challenging. This message is too, because there are people that we are embarrassed to, to be open about with our faith, that we care so much more about Fitting In than we do about declaring your name, Lord God. And I pray that you'd help us have the courage to step out that fear of you would free us from the fear of man, that we would be able to boldly go out and not be afraid of what anything that might happen to us, because you are good and you will be with us and you will give us your Holy spirit to even know what to say. Give us that courage in our life to step out in faith and publicly acknowledge you before others. Now with everybody's eyes closed and heads bowed. If you're here today and, and you're ready to clear, Jesus is your Lord and savior.

0 (39m 44s):

I'm going to give you a little prayer and you can repeat this prayer after me, dear God. Thank you for loving me. I'm a sinner. I need a savior. Save me. Forgive me, make me new. I declare that Jesus is Lord. Fill me with your Holy spirit. Jesus. I believe you died for my sins so I could live for you. Help me to follow you the rest of my life.

0 (40m 24s):

Amen. Now, if you're here and you said that prayer for the first time, just slip your hand in the air. I love to do, to be able to encourage you and pray for you. If you're online and you did that, just go to denver.com/follow. Fill that out. And I love to connect with you online. Just encourage you now for all of us here, would you please stand on your feet and you can open up your eyes. Would you please stand up on your feet? And I just want us to make this declaration right now. Jesus is Lord. Can you guys see that with me? Jesus is Lord say a little louder. Okay. Jesus is Lord. One more time. Jesus is Lord whom shall I fear.