Introduction

Ten years ago today, our world was shocked by the news that two planes had flown into the World Trade Towers.
Do you remember where you were when you heard the news?
Our world changed that day. A new threat emerged – global terrorism.

But that’s only one of the things we fear. On the one hand, fear can be a good thing when it alerts us to danger and spurs us to action. On the other hand, fear can be a controlling thing. Fear is a terrible master.

How do we handle our fears?

1. FOLLOWING JESUS REQUIRES FAITH. VERSES 23-24
We can’t be a disciple without faith. There is a cost involved in following Jesus.

Some want to follow Jesus, but at no cost. Verses 18-22
The disciples followed Jesus into the boat. A furious storm came up on the lake.
Matthew calls this storm a “seismos” – like an earthquake. These men were experienced fishermen and they were afraid.

What is it that frightens you?

II. FEAR AND FAITH CANNOT COEXIST. VERSES 25-26

“Either fear chases out faith or faith chases out fear.” D. A. Carson

“Lord save us! We’re going to drown! “Teacher, don’t you care if we drown?” Mark 4:38
Does God care?

The answer to that question is the cross.
The disciples did the right thing in coming to Jesus.
Our first impulse should be to call on our Father.

III. THE ANSWER TO FEAR IS FAITH. VERSES 26-34

“What kind of man is this? Even the winds and waves obey him?”

Their question is answered in the next story and the answer comes from a surprising source.

What do the demons believe?
- Jesus is the Son of God.
- Hell is real and it is a place of torment.
- Jesus is the judge and he has the authority to send someone there.

Jesus commanded them to come out of the men. They rushed into the pigs and perished.
The sad news comes in verse 34. The people came out of the town and asked him to leave.
Conclusion

What is your greatest fear?
The disciples had faith, but it needed to grow. So does ours.
How does faith grow?
It grows as we get to know Christ and his Word.