

SPEAKER: Drew Meyer

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SERIES TITLE: Against the Current

Sermon Title

FEAR

Introduction

This week, we wrapped up our series called **Against the Current**. Whether you realize it or not, your life is moving in a direction that follows a current. We often don't choose this current, we end up drifting into it. We drift into pressure, noise, expectations, cultures, habits, and rhythms we might not have chosen otherwise and eventually we wake up and ask the question: "How did I end up here?" Throughout this series, we have been pushing back— **against the current**, against spiritual drift— and anchoring ourselves in Jesus.

Seek the Word: Before discussing this week's questions, read through Matthew 26:31-35, 69-75 and Hebrews 12:1-3 out loud as a group. What stands out to you from this passage?

FEAR

What is a fear that consistently drives your life, or affects your day to day? Is this a fear that comes from a past experience, how it affected someone else, or just something that makes you afraid?

FEAR is a LIAR— but the CROSS points to what is TRUE

- **The Current of Fear**
 - How have you noticed fear causing drift in your relationship with Jesus? What are those fears that are causing that drift?
 - When you are experiencing fear, are you pulled more toward control, self-protection, or distance from God? Why?
- **The Circumstances of Fear**
 - Look at the story of Peter's denial of Jesus. How did he allow his circumstances to fuel his fears? How has your story echoed Peter's in that way?
 - Remember the "hall of heroes" in Hebrews 11. How does their example guide us to live by faith, not by fear, even in the most trying of circumstances?
- **The Consequences of Fear**
 - What is a lie that fear has told you that you have believed? How did that affect you and your view of yourself/the world/the church/God?
 - Hebrews 12:3 tells us to "Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart." What does it look like to "grow weary and lose heart" due to fear? What hope does Jesus provide to overcome that?

Wrap Up

Reminder: **Fear is a liar, but the cross points to what is true.** Fear can pull us in many different directions, causing us to drift away from Jesus. Fear can cause us to believe lies, lose faith, and doubt. But when we look to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, we see truth and hope. We see that fear does not have a hold on us, because we have been freed from fear by Christ, and He has given us a spirit of power, love, and sound judgement. When we anchor our lives to God, the currents of life that try to pull us away lose their power, and we can experience closeness with God like never before.

Challenge: Consider Him

Take some time each day this week to spend in intentional prayer and focus on Jesus. Consider the trials He overcame, the temptations He denied, and the cross He endured and focus on His example for your own life. Look for areas of fear that are causing you to drift, and dedicate yourself to anchoring your focus on Him, so as to free yourself from the grip of fear.

Prayer: Close your time together in prayer, thanking God for his certainty and consistency. Praise Him for His power over fear and thank Him for being a strong anchor against the currents of life. Ask that God continually fill you with a spirit of power, love, and sound judgement so you will not be controlled by fear. Pray that the currents of life that will continue to pull on you be made weak in His presence, and ask that God continues to move in the lives of you and your group to be those who are anchored in God and fixed upon Jesus.