

## FEARLESS 2

-Ryan Parsons-

As we continue to reflect upon the love of Jesus and its power to cast out the fear of his disciples, we turn our attention to two more components of the Lord's love.

### Presence

Clearly, Jesus challenged, taught, and mentored his disciples in their fear. However, knowing that one should not be afraid is simply not enough. The loving presence of Christ is repeatedly the component that solidifies fearlessness after fear rears its head. Not only did he dedicate 3 years of daily presence with his disciples, but he declared that they would never be without him when he says, "behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age (Matthew 28:20)." This is precisely why the promised ongoing presence of Christ in the disciples is an integral part of His love (John 14:25-27). When this promise of presence is fulfilled, we find great boldness in the disciples (Acts 4:13, 31).

### Leadership

The Lord never asked his disciples to do anything he was unwilling to do. As a leader, he was always willing to put his proverbial money where his mouth was. His disciples had received excellent and authoritative teaching. Moreover, they had Jesus close at hand and would continue to have his presence bestowed upon them after his ascension. However, to become like him, they had to imitate him. Jesus didn't simply give them tasks to complete. He modeled the action first. In washing his disciple's feet, the Lord concluded, "For I have given you an example, that you also should do just as I have done to you (John 13:15)." Jesus ups the ante at the cross. Here he did more than endure hardship or discomfort. Jesus endured death on behalf of his disciples. He weathered the storm he faced in faith first so his followers would know how to carry their own crosses fearlessly. Through his leadership and example, they understood that "he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers (1 John 3:16)."

Without Jesus' love, his disciples don't exist. His intentional teaching/mentoring, ongoing presence, and leadership demonstrate the depth of his love and solidify how his disciples should go forward in his love.

The questions for us are:

Have we allowed Jesus' love to cast out our fear?

Are we bold and fearless in proclaiming the gospel in our context?

Are we loving as he did by teaching/mentoring, initiating intimate presence in people's lives, and modeling that love in our leadership?

This week, take some time to evaluate yourself and worship the Lord for his unfailing love.

Hesed,  
Ryan