Live like you’re not afraid to fail — live like you are fearless!
Lesson V: Live like. . .

➤ intro:
- Matt. 14:22-33 Jesus / Peter walk on water
  - Jesus had fed 5,000 men + women and children (15-20k +/-)
  - He perceived that the people intended to make Him their king, so he sent the people away and told the apostles to escape in a boat and cross the Sea of Galilee to Capernaum (Jn. 6:15-17)

- Jesus went on the mountain to pray, alone

- 4th watch of the night (3-6 a.m.), Jesus was walking on the water - Sea of Galilee
  - apostles were 3-4 miles from shore, struggling to row the boat as waves beat upon the boat and the wind was contrary
  - Jesus came close to the apostles, they were terrified and thought He was a ghost, they cried out in fear

- Jesus identified himself and told them not to be afraid
  - command - ditto today

- Peter tested the Lord — if it is you command me to come out of the boat to you (walk on the water)

- Peter got out of the boat and started walking on the water
  - seeing the wind (causes waves), frightened, began to sink, cried out for Jesus to save him
  - Jesus took Peter by the hand, said, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?”
  - doubt / fear / faith vanishes / not obey (sink)

- title: Live like you’re not afraid to fail — live like you are fearless!
  - note: not talking about the fear that keeps us from walking in front of a car, touching a hot stove, endangering ourselves, etc.
Fear God, not man — as long as we fear (obey) God, there is no need to fear failure - success is guaranteed

- Jesus’ command
  - Matt. 10:26-31 not fear one who can kill the body, but one who can kill both body and soul in hell

  - illus.: Peter’s denial of Christ — brave at first, then fear got the best of him - failed then, but not in life
    - followed Jesus from Gethsemane where he had cut off Malchus’ ear and Jesus had been arrested, to high priest’s house where he was tried
    - apostle John was also there and made arrangements for Peter to come in
    - inside, Peter was accused of being Jesus’ disciple 3 times
      - Matt. 26:69-74 Peter’s denials
      - Matt. 26:75 Peter’s reaction, gave into fear (Lk., Lord turned and looked at Peter)
    - Peter restored by the Lord — asked 3 times if he loved Him
      - Peter was a great leader in the church — took gospel to Jews & Gentiles
      - martyred by crucifixion, upside down
    - application: sometimes we are going to fail - but we must be willing to take a chance, and do our best to obey God - live like you’re not afraid to fail, although you know you will fail upon occasion

- Fear God: reverence and obedience
  - God’s mercy is upon those who fear Him
    - Lk. 1:46-50 Mary’s praise after learning that you was pregnant

    - illus.: Christians in Jerusalem - the Christians who feared God succeeded in life, others failed (A & S)
      - Ananias and Sapphira did not fear God - failed
        - sold some land, brought some of the money to the apostles for the poor
        - lied, telling others that it was all the money they got from the sell
          - if they had told the truth, nothing bad would have happened - been commended
        - struck dead, lied to God - put the Spirit of the Lord to the test by lying to the apostles
      - Acts 5:11 Christians in Jerusalem feared God after A & S died
        - application: we must have the fear of God that drives us to be successful in life
          - illus.: when I studied md&r a few years ago when the debate heated up over baptism for the remission of divorce - committed to learn and teach the truth, even if lost my financial support to preach, for life

- Most important thing: fear God / obey God / judgment
  - Ec. 12:13-14 fear God and keep His commandments, applies to every person, judgment
  - 2 Cor. 5:10-11a judgment seat of Christ, fear

- Christian’s fear is reverence and respect, not horror — love casts out fear
  - 1 Jn. 4:17-18 loved perfected, confidence day of judgment, love casts out fear
    - illus.: two people, day of judgment, one fears and one loves
- A few more Scriptures relating to fear and failure - quick overview
  - Lk. 12:27  not to fear, be afraid we won’t have the necessities of life
  
  - Jn. 3:20  not fear, be afraid of religious scrutiny - personal and as a church - light always wins out
  
  - 1 Pet. 3:14; Rev. 2:10  not fear those who would try to intimidate us religiously - trying to pressure us into sinning - suffer for righteousness sake
  
  - Rom. 13:3,7  not fear civil authorities - because living in obedience to their ordinances

- Phil. 1:14  speaking the word of God without fear

- Phil. 2:12  work out own salvation with fear and trembling

- fear that we may turn from God and back to sin
  - Heb. 4:1  fear, rest, come short of it.”

- God’s word will not fail
  - Lu 16:17  easier for heaven and earth to pass away than one stroke of a letter of the Law to fail
  - Is. 55:11  word, not return to Me empty (void), without accomplishing and succeeding

- the ministry of the Spirit will not fail - God’s covenant with us, walking by the Spirit
  - 2 Cor. 3:7-8  ministry of death vs. ministry of the Spirit fail — will not fail
  - application:  fear and obey God, not fail — secret to success

- Who will fail? — the wicked
  - Job 11:20  the eyes of the wicked will fail, no escape, their hope is to breathe their last
  - application:  fear and obey God, not fail — secret to success
it takes courage:
- **courage**: mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty (Webster)
  - being afraid, but doing the right thing anyway
- **illus.**: Abraham Lincoln - failed many times — courage to continue trying even after failure
- **illus.**: Thomas Edison - taught others not to fear failure — courage to continue trying even after failure

- **courage is required for us to obey God rather than man** — confidence in our success - live as if we’re not afraid to fail
  - **illus.**: Joshua
    - **Joshua 1:6-8**  God commanded, be strong and courageous — preparing to lead Israel into the Promise Land
      - what would it be like to be in his shoes — afraid, anticipation, see Lord’s army, war

- **illus.**: David and Goliath (1 Sam. 17)
  - **1 Sam. 17:45-47**  David’s words to Goliath before fighting
  - Israel was afraid - David was courageous
  - Israel had forgotten that the battle belonged to the Lord - David had not
  - today: to be courageous, we must remember that the battle belongs to the Lord — victory is certain

- **illus.**: Jesus — courage to overcome feelings (fear, afraid) and do God’s will
  - **Heb. 5:7-8**  Jesus’ distress: crying, tears, learned obedience, suffered
  - **Matt. 26:39** (Jesus’ courageous attitude) "yet not as I will, but as You will."

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**Conclusion / inv.:**
- don’t be afraid to fail — obey God, success is guaranteed
  - reverence God and keep His commandments
  - love God, fear cast out, confidence in the day of judgment

- **inv.**
  - walk in the footsteps of Jesus: have courage, obey God and do His will, even when you don’t want to

Audio sermon notes: this is an abbreviated outline closely resembling the one I used to present this lesson.

- ➤ denotes where to proceed to the next PowerPoint slide.
- All Scriptures are NASB, unless otherwise noted.