



FEARS, TEARS & JEERS:

Staying positive
in a negative world, Lesson #6

Thus far in this series we've covered:

- The FEAR of eternal insecurity – not necessary!
- The FEAR of death – not necessary!
- The FEAR of failure – not necessary!
- The FEAR of choosing – not necessary!
- The FEAR of strongholds – not necessary!

Today's Topic:

- The FEAR of...

PROBLEMS!

- *Do you ever look like this?*







Ever have problems with technology?



What is a “problem?”

- A difficult, perplexing, confusing, bewildering question or issue.
- A question proposed for consideration, discussion, answer and solution.
- Anyone here face *problems*?





There is NO such thing as a “problem-free life!”

What is the root cause of problems?

“And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life...”

- *“Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”*




- In their sinless state, Adam and Eve had no problems...but ever since their fall, every person who has ever lived has experienced an abundance of problems.
- *If we don't panic,* problems build our character, faith, and maturity in the Lord!


• “...we must ***through much tribulation*** enter into the kingdom of God.” Acts 14:22b

• “...we ***glory in tribulations*** also, knowing that tribulation worketh patience...” Romans 5:3

Contributing factors today:

• *Self-inflicted* problems caused by ***our own*** foolishness, naivete, laziness, and chaos.





• Problems inflicted by ***others'*** foolishness, naivete, laziness and chaos.



• The ***natural consequences*** of living in an imperfect world.

• ***Spiritual warfare***—Satan and demons.



• **God Himself.**

The NIV mentions *problems* twice:

“But how can I bear your problems and your burdens and your disputes all by myself?” Deuteronomy 1:12

(ANSWER: DELEGATE!)

“This man Daniel, whom the king called Belteshazzar, was found to have a keen mind and knowledge and understanding, and also the ability to interpret dreams, explain riddles and solve difficult problems. Call for Daniel, and he will tell you what the writing means.” Dan 5:12

ANSWER: ASK FOR WISDOM!

- Ever hear Steve Brown on WIHS radio?
- Much of what I'll share this morning comes from his writings...blended with some teachings of the Rev. Norman Vincent Peale, and my own observations.

Key Passage for Today: Mark 6:45-52

"And straightway he constrained his disciples to get into the ship, and to go to the other side before unto Bethsaida, while he sent away the people. And when he had sent them away, he departed into a mountain to pray.

And when even was come, the ship was in the midst of the sea, and he alone on the land. And he saw them toiling in rowing; for the wind was contrary unto them: and about the fourth watch of the night he cometh unto them, walking upon the sea, and would have passed by them."


"But when they saw him walking upon the sea, they supposed it had been a spirit, and cried out: For they all saw him, and were troubled. And immediately he talked with them, and saith unto them, Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid.

And he went up unto them into the ship; and the wind ceased: and they were sore amazed in themselves beyond measure, and wondered. For they considered not the miracle of the loaves: for their heart was hardened."

Key things to remember:

- Jesus ***is aware*** of your problems—from the smallest to the biggest. He has promised never to leave us or forsake us...DO YOU BELIEVE THAT?
- Don't think your problems are worse than they are. Through fear, we can create mountains out of molehills!

- Don't confuse and fear the solution along with the problem. Look for the soft spot!
- Don't view every problem as an "accident." Instead, see God's Hand in each problem--as an opportunity to grow in faith, grace, knowledge, understanding, wisdom; to be a problem-solver!




- Don't make your problems worse by denying God's power and willingness to solve them.
- Don't make your problems worse by refusing to remember past victories as you experience your "spiritual heart attack."

- When solving a problem, don't let the solution / correction spiral out of control into abuse. Sometimes we have knee-jerk over-reactions out of fear and frustration."
- Example of two fathers: Dawn's and mine.

- Understand the difference between a “problem” and a “fact.”
- A problem is something you can do something about.
- A fact is something just to be accepted. Part of the wisdom of problem-solving is facing reality.

What are your problems today?

- Remember, fear and worry don't solve problems. They usually exacerbate and accentuate them. That's rule #1 in being a lifeguard trying to rescue a victim!
- Experience is very beneficial. Once you've faced a tsunami, the normal waves don't scare you as much! That's one of the benefits of aging.



There's victory in Jesus!