

“When People are BIG ... and God is SMALL”

April 6, 2021 ~ Ladies Bible Study

Theme verse: *“And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the Lord, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.” 1 Samuel 15:24*

Introduction: When our fear of man becomes bigger than our fear of God, people become VERY BIG in our lives ... and consequently, they then control and rule our lives. These people may or may not be intentionally causing this fear in our hearts and in our lives, but they can do it by their words or by their actions.

Fear has two definitions on TOTALLY different spectrums ... Definition #1: a strong unpleasant emotion caused by anticipation or awareness of danger; anxious concern; to be afraid of ... Definition #2: a profound reverence and awe toward God.

Who is affected by people?

ALL of us ... it is not just the timid, church mouse, but even people who seem big and bold can be affected [illus: Peter when he denied Christ 3x]

How do people get BIGGER than God?

- When we get our eyes off of God [illus: Peter walking on water]
- Mind/imaginings (shadows are so big; they distract us from the real deal)

Satan is a LIAR!!

He is going to cause some deadly things to happen in your Christian life to make people BIG and God SMALL ... but DO NOT believe him!

- **Deceive** - to cause to accept as true or valid what is false or invalid; to ensnare [trap]
- **Distress** [verb; expresses an act or mode of being] - to subject to great strain or difficulties; to cause to worry or be troubled; upset
- **Distract** - to draw or direct (something, such as someone's attention) to a different object or in different directions at the same time; to turn aside; to stir up or confuse with conflicting emotions or motives
- **Depress** - to cause to sink to a lower position; to press down; to lessen the activity or strength of
- **Discourage** - dishearten; to deprive of courage or confidence; to hinder by disfavoring

How can we overcome the wiles of Satan ... for ANY situation? The same way that Christ did in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11):

1. **Hebrews 12:2** - *“Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”*
2. **Deuteronomy 31:6** - *“Be strong and of a good courage, fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”*
3. **Ephesians 6:10** - *“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.”*
4. **Acts 5:29** - *“Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”*

5. *Joshua 24:15* – “And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
6. *Jeremiah 17:5* – “Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.”
7. *Psalm 118:8* – “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man.” [illus: middle verse]
8. *Matthew 5:43-44* – “Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”
9. *Ephesians 6:18* – “Praying always with all prayer [talking to God; asking a request/petition] and supplication [to ask humbly and fervently] in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints.”

“You can talk about me all you please, but I will talk about you on my knees.”

Conclusion: “How many times are you going to try to teach me this lesson, Lord?” His reply, “Until you have learned it!” [illus: new pastor]