

### **Problem**

We think too highly of ourselves and we think too little of Christ - we do not fear the Lord  
Nobody fears grandpa or a buddy or counselor

-Read the following verses: Psalm 25:15; 33:18; 111:10; Proverbs 1:7; 2:5.

-how important is the fear of the Lord in our relationship with God?

-Now read Romans 3:10-18. Verse 18 is the summation of what is wrong with the world.

-What about the church?

-read the following article and discuss:

<http://www.jakekail.com/3-signs-lost-fear-lord/>

### **Text**

#### **You cannot follow Christ if you don't know who you are (Matthew 8:18-20)**

-the scribe called Jesus "teacher," look up these other references where Jesus is called teacher. What do they have in common?

-Now read Mathew 8:2 and 6. How does this contrast with the above references?

-Jesus refers to Himself as the Son of Man (8:20), read Daniel 7:13-14.

-how does this self reference, by Jesus, add color to this section?

-in what ways have you been tempted to overvalue yourself and undervalue Christ?

#### **You cannot follow Christ if you don't know who He is (Matthew 8:21-22)**

-read Matthew 13:44-46. How do these mini-parables illustrate this man's undervaluing of Christ?

-how does this understanding of Jesus relate to what discipleship looks like?

#### **He has authority over the storm (Matthew 8:23-27)**

-read psalm 89:8-9 and 107:23-32. What is significant in this miracle?

-verse 27 says they marveled. Read Mark 4:39-41.

-what does marvel mean?

-what would cause them to fear Christ more than the storm?

-do you have this view of Christ? Why or why not?

-does your faith illustrate a flippancy or low view of Christ?

-how does this passage correct your view of Christ?

#### **He has authority over Satan (Matthew 8:28-34)**

-Verse 34 says they begged Him to leave. Read Luke 8:34-37. Why did they ask Him to leave?

-Read John 9:18-23 and 12:41-43. In asking Him to leave who did they show they feared more?

-Read Luke 12:4-9. Who should they fear more?

-do Jesus' words here shock you? Why or why not?

-how does this depiction of Him relate to pop culture Jesus?

**He has authority over sin (Matthew 9:1-8)**

-the Pharisees accused Jesus of blasphemy when He forgave this man's sins (9:3). Read Psalm 51:1-4.

-Why would this act be considered blasphemy?

-In other words, what exactly was Jesus claiming in this act?

-Matthew 9:8 says they were afraid of the authority wielded by Jesus. Read Judges 6:11-23. How does this passage illustrate the same fear?

**Know who you are (Matthew 9:9-13)**

-Matthew was a tax collector. How did this make him different from the man in Matthew 8:18-20?

-fear of the Lord begins with a proper view of self and is a necessary ingredient to following Christ. How do Luke 2:8-10; 5:1-11; Isaiah 6:1-8 and Revelation 1:9-19, illustrate this fact?

-is this your view of yourself as you follow Christ? Why or why not?

**Know who He is (Matthew 9:14-17)**

-Jesus essentially says that because He is present there is no need to fast. If He were hypothetically not God what would this statement make Jesus?

-Jesus did not come to patch up the Law and to lead people in self improvement. He came to make all things New.

-read Isaiah 8:11-13; Psalm 130:3-4. We are to fear Him. 1 John 4:13-18, points out that when we know who He really is will we be free of the fear of impending judgment.

-how doe Matthew 28:8 and Acts 9:31 answer Romans 3:18?

-are you walking in the fear of the Lord?

-what will you do differently based on this message?

**Main idea**

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of discipleship.

**Implication**

Christ did not come to be our teacher - He came to be our refuge

We follow the one who controls weather

We follow the one who dominates demons

We follow the one who we have sinned against, the only one who has the power to forgive us

He is not to be valued - He is to be worshipped!

**Application**

We must not know an idol - We must know THIS Christ

Discuss specific ways to apply this to your lives. If time permits please read and discuss this article: <http://www.apuritansmind.com/the-christian-walk/the-fear-of-god-by-wilhelmus-abrakel/>