

Taking Risks In Light Of Eternity

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I. What is risk? A situation involving exposure to danger, harm or loss

--What are risks you could take for God and what loss or harm might you sense?

Matthew 14:22-33: “Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go ahead of Him to the other side...in the evening, the boat was already long distance from the land, battered by the waves; for the wind was contrary. In the fourth watch of the night He came to them, walking on the sea. When the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were terrified, and said, ‘It is a ghost!’ And they cried out in fear. “But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid.’ Peter said to Him, ‘Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water.’ And [Jesus] said, ‘Come!’ Peter got out of the boat, and walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But seeing the wind, he became frightened, and beginning to sink, he cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’ Immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and took hold of him, and said to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” When they got into the boat, the wind stopped. And those who were in the boat worshiped Him, saying, ‘You are certainly God’s Son!’”

--Taking risks is about **extreme discipleship** not about extreme sports.

II. What always accompanies risk?

A. FEAR

1. Discipleship involves
 - a. choice; choice always involves risk; risk is always accompanied by fear.
 - b. daily choices, so fear is a constant recurrence for Christ-followers.
2. Expect and normalize fear.

B. GROWTH

What did Peter gain by taking his risk?

C. Success or Failure

1. Failure is NOT an event.
2. Failure is only an interpretation of an event.

Matthew 25:21: “His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant.’”

3. Did Peter fail? NO
4. Peter was **practicing** obedience

III. Embrace the truth of risks:

A. Trusting God IS NOT risky, but it is perfectly safe:

Prov. 29:25 : “Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the Lord is kept safe.”

Gen. 22:5: “Stay here with the donkey, and I and the lad will go over there; and we will worship and return to you.”

Abraham knew God’s promises and God’s power.

Psalm 37:5: “Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.”

B. Being disobedient is risky.

We risk NOT

- a. living life God has crafted for us.
- b. experiencing Jesus’ closeness or the Spirit’s power.
- c. seeing profit in others’ lives now or in heaven.
- d. getting rewards God can’t wait to give us when we see Him.

IV. Fix yourself on Jesus & Gospel

Hebrews 12:1,2 “Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith...”

A. Fix eyes on Jesus

1. Consistent spiritual feeding
2. Consistent gratitude for aspects of the gospel: salvation, adoption, significance
3. Confessing aversion to risk-taking
4. Pondering eternity

B. Surround yourself with risk-takers

- a. Peter “risked” safety.
- b. Ruth “risked” the known.
- c. The royal official (John 4) “risked” control.
- d. Gideon “risked” defeat.
- e. Esther, Daniel, Stephen, Hudson Taylor, Corrie Ten Boom “risked” their lives.
- f. My friends who take risks.

C. Ask Jesus for risks.

D. Keep taking risks.