

## **The Gables – Fear**

### **Introduction:**

#### *Some people have a fear of monsters:*

A man had been visiting a therapist because he had a fear of monsters living under his bed. The man had been seeing this doctor for months. Every time he would come in for an appointment, the doctor would ask, "Have you made any progress?" And every time the man would reply, "No, I have not." The man decided to go see another doctor for a second opinion. After visiting the second doctor, he returned to the first doctor. The first doctor asked, "Have you made any progress?" The man said, "Yes, I am feeling all better now." The first doctor asked, "What happened?" The man said, "I went to another doctor and he cured me in one session." The first doctor asked, "What did he tell you?" The man said, "He just told me to cut the legs off of my bed."

Based on: <http://forum.letssingit.com/topic/98355/fear-joke/1>

#### *Some people have a fear of flying:*

Passengers on a Lufthansa flight heard this announcement from the captain: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I am sorry to inform you that we have lost power to all of our engines and will shortly crash into the ocean." The passengers were obviously very worried about this situation, but were somewhat comforted by the captain's next announcement. "Ladies and Gentlemen, we at Lufthansa have prepared for such an emergency and we would now like you to rearrange your seating so that all the non-swimmers are on the left side of the plane and all the swimmers are on the right side of the plane." After this announcement all the passengers rearranged their seating to comply with the captain's request. Two minutes later the captain made a belly landing in the ocean. The captain once again made an announcement: "Ladies and Gentlemen we have crashed into the ocean. All of the swimmers on the right side of the plane, open your emergency exits and quickly swim away from the plane. For all of the non-swimmers on the left side of plane... THANK YOU FOR FLYING LUFTHANSA- "

Source: <http://www.jokebuddha.com/Fear>

#### *Some people have a fear of doctors:*

A woman went to the doctor's office. She was seen by one of the new doctors, but after about four minutes, she burst out of the examination room, screaming as she ran down the hall. An older doctor stopped her to find out what the problem was. He had her sit down and relax in another room and explain what happened. The older doctor then marched back into the examination room of the new doctor and demanded, "What's the matter with you? Mrs. Terry is sixty-three years-old, she has four grown children and seven grandchildren, and you told her she was pregnant?" The new doctor smiled smugly as he continued to write on his clipboard. "Cured her hiccups though, didn't it?"

Based on: [http://jokes.christiansunite.com/Doctors/Doctor\\_Fear.html](http://jokes.christiansunite.com/Doctors/Doctor_Fear.html)

#### *Some people have a fear of robbers:*

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening worship service and was startled to find an intruder in her house. Catching the man in the act of burglarizing her home, she yelled, "STOP! Acts 2:38!" ("Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus

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Christ so that your sins may be forgiven.") As the burglar stopped dead in his tracks, the woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. A short time later, several officers arrived and took the man into custody. As he was placing the handcuffs on the burglar, one of the officers asked, "Why did you just stand there? All the lady did was mention a scripture verse." "Scripture?" replied the burglar. "She said she had an axe and two 38s!"

Source: <http://www.ebaumsworld.com/jokes/read/771970/>

### **Dialog between Rick & Donna:**

**Rick:** So, Donna, what are you afraid of?

**Donna:** Germs.

**Rick:** Germs?

**Donna:** Yes. That's why I always have to have clean sheets on the bed, why I vacuum a lot, why I remind you to wash your hands, and why I usually have at least three canisters of Clorox wipes in the house.

**Rick:** Oh, I guess that explains it. What else are you afraid of?

**Donna:** I remember being deathly afraid of walking down the stairs at the XL Center in Hartford. I was there for a Women of Faith meeting last year. So, I have a fear of heights.

**Donna:** What are you afraid of, Rick?

**Rick:** When I was a kid, I used to sleep on my stomach with one leg dangling off the bed. After seeing the movie *Jaws*, I stopped doing that because I was afraid a shark would somehow get in my room and bite me. So, I guess I'm afraid of sharks.

**Donna:** Hmm. That's interesting. What else?

**Rick:** I used to watch a television show called *Dark Shadows*. It was about a vampire named Barnabas Collins. I used to rush home from middle school to watch it. Unfortunately, I had to start sleeping with the sheets over my neck because I was afraid the vampire would somehow get in my room and bite me. So, I guess I was afraid of vampires too.

**Donna:** What are you afraid of now?

**Rick:** Standing before God and having him tell me I lived an unfruitful life. Here's a passage from John 15:

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“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. <sup>2</sup> He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes <sup>[a]</sup> so that it will be even more fruitful. <sup>3</sup> You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.

<sup>4</sup> Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.

<sup>5</sup> “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit,

**Donna:** What does the Bible say about fear?

**Rick:**

- *Key message: If you fear God, you don’t have to fear other things.*
  - ✓ Proverbs 1:7 says, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”
  - ✓ Luke 12:5 - But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.

**Donna:** What are some of the things we as Christians don’t have to fear?

**Rick:** Well, there’s two categories of things we no longer have to fear – things in this life and things in the next. First, let’s talk about the things in this life.

- *Have you ever been bullied, either as a kid or as an adult? We don’t have to be afraid of people.*
  - ✓ Psalm 27:1-3 says: The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.
- *Are you afraid your money will run out, or your health will get worse, or you’ll fall? We don’t have to be afraid of our needs not being met. God will take care of us.*
  - ✓ Psalm 34:7-8 says: The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. Fear the LORD, you his saints, for those who fear him lack nothing.
  - ✓ Philippians 4:6-7 says: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. <sup>7</sup> And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

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- *We don't have to be afraid of something bad suddenly happening to us. Everything in our life is filtered through God's will.*
  - ✓ Proverbs 3:25: Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked...
- *Are you afraid of being alone? Do you become discouraged when no one visits you? You don't have to fear. Jesus can be the best friend you ever had; closer than a friend or a family member.*
  - ✓ Isaiah 41:10: So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

**Donna:** What do we no longer need to fear about the next life?

**Rick:**

- *The most obvious thing is that we no longer have to fear death.*
  - ✓ Hebrews 2:14-15 says: Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil— and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.
  - ✓ Psalm 145:15 says: He fulfills the desires of those who fear him; he hears their cry and saves them.
- *We don't have to be afraid of God's judgment.*
  - ✓ Hebrews 9:27 says: ...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...
  - ✓ 1 John 4:16-18 says: God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. In this way, love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment, because in this world we are like him. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

**Donna:** What do we do if we are still afraid?

**Rick:** As I said earlier, if you fear God, you won't have to fear other things. Using the metaphor of the vine, you first must be grafted in and attached to the vine, then you must remain in it.

**Donna:** What do you mean?

**Rick:** You first must receive Jesus as savior and then you must follow Him as lord.

**Donna:** How do you do that?

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**Rick:** Repent and believe. First you must repent of your sins, then you must believe that Jesus can save you from your sins.

**Donna:** What does it mean to repent?

**Rick:** You must admit you were wrong, be willing to turn away from your evil way of life and stop doing the bad things you did before.

- Luke 13:3 - But unless you repent, you too will all perish.
- Romans 3:23 – For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.
- Romans 6:23 – For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our lord.
- Romans 10:9 – If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.
- Revelation 3:20 – Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me.
- Ephesians 2:8-10 - For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.
- Jeremiah 29:11 - For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

So, God prepared things for us to do, even later in life. We can’t complete them in our own strength. We must first be saved, and then abide in Jesus, the one true vine, for the rest of our lives. If we remain in Him, He will give us joy, hope, peace and a future.

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