

TAKING WORSHIP INTO YOUR WEEK



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The reaction of the disciples to their risen Lord was. . . fear. They thought they were seeing and hearing the impossible. All too often, this is our reaction as well, but it's not because we see and hear our Lord; rather, because we hear the roaring of our Enemy, and see his work. Peter, who was with the disciples when Jesus first appeared, was later to write about our fear, so that we disciples in our day, when we hear the roaring, will listen instead for the voice of Jesus.

1. Read 1 Peter 5:6 and list ways you have been trying to lift yourself out of difficult circumstances, (one way of responding to fear). What does Peter offer as the God-pleasing and effective alternative? If you did that, what would it look like for you?
2. Read v. 7. Anxiety had been called “fear about what hasn’t happened yet.” Refer to Ps. 139:23-24 and ask yourself if it’s possible you’re fearful because you’re not sure God is there to walk into the future with you. What does the Psalmist ask God to do?
3. Read vs. 8-9. Look up, in the concordance you use, the word “stand” and note some references that speak of standing up to evil. What promises do you find there to cling to?
4. Vs. 10 brings up the benefit of suffering anxiety or fear. What, at the end of the verse, is the result of enduring such suffering?
5. Read the Gospel account for this Sunday, Luke 24:36-49. What were the first words of Jesus to his disciples who were beside themselves with anxiety about the future? Imagine your Lord speaking those words to you. What might happen if you made a habit of imagining your Lord speaking that to you throughout the day?

Lord God, as your disciples are gathered here, we ask that we will hear your voice; speak to us, Lord, that our fear might be replaced with the joy of your presence. In your powerful name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit we ask it. Amen.