Date: 2/11/17

Title: Faith or Fear

Theme: If we have faith we have nothing to fear.

Object: Two empty water bottles, one with a cap and one without. Picture of Jesus steering ship through storm (Harry Anderson book, p 85)

Text: Mark 4:40 He said to his disciples, “Why are you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

I want to show you a picture this morning. [Show picture of Jesus steering ship through storm]

Have you ever seen this picture before? (Right! It’s on our bulletin every week.)

Jesus is on a ship in the middle of a storm, and He’s steering the ship through the stormy sea.

You can see the dark clouds, the lightening, and the rain.

The waves are crashing over the sides of the ship.

Does Jesus look like He’s scared that the ship is going to sink and they’re going to drown? (No!)

Do the people look scared that the ship’s going to sink and they’re going to drown? (No!)

Look at this little boy. He’s not even scared. Who’s he looking at? (Jesus).

All these people are looking at Jesus and they’re all trusting Him to get them through the storm safely.

That’s what it means to have faith. They all trust in Jesus to get them through.

The Bible tells the story about Jesus in a boat in the middle of a storm.

Jesus had finished preaching and He was going to the other side of the Sea of Galilee with His disciples.

Jesus wasn’t steering the ship; He was in the back of the ship asleep on a pillow.

One of the disciples was steering, and suddenly a storm came up on the lake.

The lightening flashed, the thunder crashed, the waves tossed the boat up and down and side to side.

The waves came crashing into the boat, and the disciples thought the ship would sink and they were all going to drown.

They were really scared.

They went back and woke up Jesus and said, “Don’t you care? We’re all going to die!!!”

Jesus stood up and put up His hand and said, “Peace, be still.”

And what do you think happened? (The storm stopped, and the water was calm.)

Then Jesus said to His disciples, “Why were you so afraid? Do you still have no faith?”

Do you see what He is saying? If you have faith in Jesus, there is no reason for fear.

If you have faith in Jesus, you’ll be like the people in this picture.

It doesn’t matter how bad the storm is, if you hold onto Jesus and look to Him, you will be safe.

Let me illustrate it this way. I have here two water bottles. Both are empty.

But there is a difference between these two. Who can tell me what the difference is? (One has a cap)

The one with the cap has faith in Jesus; the one without the cap has no faith in Jesus.

Let’s see what happens when the storm hits the one without faith. [Punch the bottle flat]

The storms of life will sooner or later flatten the person without faith in Jesus.

Now let’s see what happens when the storm hits the one with faith. [Punch the bottle but it keeps its shape.]

When the storm hits you, which one would you rather be?

Even if the storm is so bad that it kills us, Jesus is able to bring us back to life in the resurrection if we trust in Him.

If we have faith in Jesus, we have nothing to fear.

How many want to trust in Jesus today?