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Central Congregational Church
"For the Glory of God and the Good of our Neighbors"
www.ccclamesa.com

Fear Factor Jeremiah 42-43

Series: Run with the Horses: Faithful Living in a Fearful World

Central Passage

Jeremiah 42:10–17 (ESV) — **10** *If you will remain in this land, then I will build you up and not pull you down; I will plant you, and not pluck you up; for I relent of the disaster that I did to you. 11 Do not fear the king of Babylon, of whom you are afraid. Do not fear him, declares the LORD, for I am with you, to save you and to deliver you from his hand. 12 I will grant you mercy, that he may have mercy on you and let you remain in your own land. 13 But if you say, 'We will not remain in this land,' disobeying the voice of the LORD your God 14 and saying, 'No, we will go to the land of Egypt, where we shall not see war or hear the sound of the trumpet or be hungry for bread, and we will dwell there,' 15 then hear the word of the LORD, O remnant of Judah. Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: If you set your faces to enter Egypt and go to live there, 16 then the sword that you fear shall overtake you there in the land of Egypt, and the famine of which you are afraid shall follow close after you to Egypt, and there you shall die. 17 All the men who set their faces to go to Egypt to live there shall die by the sword, by famine, and by pestilence. They shall have no remnant or survivor from the disaster that I will bring upon them.*

Central Thought: Fear easily becomes an idol in our lives wherein we give more credence to the causes of our fear than to the power of God and his love for his children.

- ❖ Our fear is misplaced – We are called to fear God and nothing and nobody else.

Proverbs 1:7 (ESV) — *7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. (See also Prov. 9:10; Psalm 111:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13)*

Isaiah 41:10 (ESV) — *10 fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand*

- ❖ Fear based lives are reactionary distancing us from God's presence and purpose.
- ❖ Faith based lives are responsive and lead us into God's presence and purposes.

Romans 11:22 (NLT) — *22 Notice how God is both kind and severe. He is severe toward those who disobeyed, but kind to you if you continue to trust in his kindness. But if you stop trusting, you also will be cut off.*

- ❖ Jesus calls us to trust him and follow him in our fear filled world.

Mark 4:40 (ESV) — *40 He said to them, "Why are you so afraid? Have you still no faith?"*

Matthew 11:28–30 (ESV) — *28 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."*

1 John 4:18 (ESV) — *18 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.*