

## SERMON OUTLINE 4

# BE NOT AFRAID

**NOTE:** It is recommended that you read chapter 27, “The Story,” in *Love Does* before the sermon so you will be well acquainted with the stories from Bob Goff.

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Bob Goff’s son, Adam, found a boat for sale on Craigslist, met the owner, and bought a forty-year-old, twenty-seven-foot sailboat for less money than a set of new golf clubs. Bob was with Adam at the sale in order to protect his son from a scam.
- B. The sailboat sported abused fiberglass, fasteners missing (which held the sail to the mast), sails that were washed out and limp like bedsheets, teak rails that looked like driftwood, running lights that didn’t work—and the engine coughed from its overuse of oil.
- C. Bob notes, “Adam saw this tattered sailboat completely different than most people would.” Adam bought it, and he and Bob sailed it down the coast and into San Diego Bay to their dock.
- D. Adam named his boat *The Story*. Goff writes, “For Adam . . . *The Story* wouldn’t be a sailing machine; it would be a story machine.”

### II. TEACHING

The Bible reveals God and His will to us primarily through stories.

- 1. We teach children, and we ourselves learn from the great stories of the Old and New Testaments. A few examples . . .
  - a. Old Testament: the Creation story, the Joseph story, David and Goliath, Daniel and the lions’ den.
  - b. New Testament: the birth of Jesus; Jesus healing the leper, feeding the 5000, raising Lazarus from the dead, dying on the cross, rising from the dead.

2. We live by stories, not by principles, abstractions, and guidelines. “Story is the gospel way. Story isn’t imposed on our lives; it invites us into its life. . . . Story is the primary means we have for learning what the world is, and what it means to be a human being in it” (Eugene H. Peterson, *Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians*, p. 4).
3. Bible stories teach us to see life “completely different” than most people and to be unafraid (as Ryan did with his boat). “Fear not, for I am with you” is repeated often in the Bible.
  - a. God saw fearful Gideon as a “mighty warrior” (Judges 6:12). Gideon became just that with God’s help.
  - b. Jesus saw His hiding-in-fear disciples as world-changers (see Luke 24:33–36, 48.)

### **III. APPLICATION**

- A. Bob Goff writes that a friend named Don led “discussions about the story we are telling with our lives and that we could be telling a better story.”
- B. As you reflect, what story is your life telling right now? Does your story satisfy you? Does it invite others in?
- C. If fear were no obstacle to you, what (new) story do you want your life to tell? The Jesus story reminds us that we can find evidence of Jesus’ presence in the ordinary stories of our lives. Be not afraid.