

## **FUSION Devo: March 20th, 2009**

### **Title: Let's Get Dangerous**

#### **Text: 2 Timothy 1:7**

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

It is amazing how many people are "Thrill Junkies". You know what I mean. Those people who do everything they can to push themselves to danger's doorstep. I mean, people these days do everything from running with a herd of bulls through the streets of Pamplona, Spain to jumping out of a perfectly fine airplane. I even watched a segment on television the other day showing people swimming man-eating sharks. MAN-EATING! SHARKS!!! Are you kidding me? Humans have done all they can to up the "Danger Meter" and see exactly how close they can come to death. There are even reality shows where people compete in events such as being buried alive in a box containing snakes to see who can stay in there the longest. Contestants try to escape from a car that was dropped into a lake. And still others, just common people like us, seeing who can ride a bucking, snorting bull. Crazy!

I mean, I have done my share of crazy things. I've repelled out of helicopters. I have done the crazy Sky Coaster at Carowinds theme park in Charlotte. I have even taken 40+ 7th graders away for a weekend on a retreat. That could possibly be the most dangerous thing ever. I like the thrill of flirting with danger just like the next guy, but others seem to have no problem doing just about anything to get the rush associated with danger.

I guess my question is this then. Why do we Christians seem to have such a difficult time when it comes to sharing our faith? I mean we will base-jump off of the Empire State Building in New York City, but ask me to share with someone that God loves them so much that he sent his one and only son, Jesus, to live and die for them, and we suddenly struggle to find the courage. How about sharing with a person that it takes more than being a good person to get to Heaven, but that John 14:6 says that the ONLY way to Heaven is through accepting Jesus as our Savior? Then we would rather have a tooth pulled. Why is that? What are we afraid of? That we will be rejected? That we will be laughed at? That they will not want to listen to what we say? That we may fail? Well, all of those reactions are a very real possibility. But that is what makes this life so exciting.

Have you really thought about this guy named Jesus? What type of guy is he? Jesus is not some meek and mild person who just waded in the shallow end of the pool. No way! Jesus is the dude that would cannonball off the high dive into the deep end of the pool. Our savior is a guy that would come in and shake things up. And I bet that if Jesus had the chance today, he would lead the pack of those crazy people running with the bulls. I bet he would even lag a little bit behind to see exactly how close he could get to the horns of the biggest and meanest bull in the herd. And if our savior is willing to live that dangerously and stir things up, why can't we dig deep into our souls and find the courage to push aside the fear and let someone know that they are loved beyond belief?

We are told in God's word that a spirit of fear is not something that God gives us. That fear comes from this world that wants to hold us back and whisper in our ear to not cause any waves. Just stay silent and that way we can't be hurt. But we must buckle up, put on the crash helmet and embrace the fact that a true and authentic life as a Christ-Follow will sometimes require us to face our fears and look eye to eye with a world that needs to hear and see and experience the life-changing, good news of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ.

So, put on all the safety gear and let's get in the mix. Hold on. The ride could get a little bumpy.

Shoot! It could get a lot bumpy. But fear not, because we have Jesus with us. It is going to be awesome! Cowabunga!

### **Something to Think About:**

- What are some things that you would consider, crazy, wild or dangerous?
- Do you like to flirt with danger? Why or why not?
- Do you have a fear of sharing the message of Christ with others? Have you ever done that? How did that work out?
- How can we put aside our fear of sharing Christ with others?
- Is there a person or persons who you know need to hear about the Love of Jesus? How can you share that message with them?

### **A Few Minutes with God:**

God, help me to embrace the challenge to share your love and message with this world. Help me to be willing to stir things up and cause some waves as I move out of my comfort zone and into the places where I can allow your message to flow through me to this world. Jesus, I thank you for being willing to get off the bench, step away from your fear and do what you did for me and for all of us. I pray that you will strengthen me to push past my fear and be the person you want me to be. In your holy name. Amen