

FEAR NOT

LUKE 1

Text:

Introduction:

Fear has been a part of the human existence since the fall of man in Genesis 3:8-10. Everyone, regardless of how brave they seem, is afraid of something.

In the Bible, we can see where men were stalked by their fears:

1. Abraham lied about Sarah out of fear - Gen. 12:11-13
2. Jacob displayed fear of Esau - Gen. 32:6-8
3. Moses feared Pharaoh - Ex. 2:14
4. Moses feared Rejection - Ex. 4:1
5. The Disciples feared the storm - Matt. 8:24-26

Three times God sent angelic messengers to the earth with messages connected to the birth of His Son, the Lord Jesus. Each time, they brought big news, news which troubled the hearts of their hearers. However, they also came with a message of peace. Three times

angels appeared. Three times they spoke the words, "Fear not." Let's take some time this morning to examine the messages of these angels and learn for ourselves what it means to "Fear Not."

1. DON'T FEAR GOD'S PROVIDENCE (VS 26-38)

The Fear Not Of the Impossibility

- A. The Calmness of Mary (26-27)
- B. The Challenge to Mary (28-37)

Much different today when someone is with child that isn't married

- C. The Consecration of Mary (38)

Despite the shame that was sure to come her way, despite the humiliation she would bear, Mary was willing to submit her life to the will of the Lord, and in doing so, she sets an example of obedience and surrender that every child of God needs to take to heart.

Illustration: Joseph (Genesis 50:20)

2. DON'T FEAR GOD'S PLAN (MATTHEW 1:18-25)

The Fear Not of Immediate Obedience

Matthew 1:18-25

Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. [19] Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily. [20] But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. [21] And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins. [22] Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, [23] Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us. [24] Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: [25] And knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name Jesus.

A. The Problem in Joseph's Life (18-19)

He could have made a public mess out of the situation and had Mary put away or even her life taken.
(Deut. 24)

Everything has now changed for Joseph. What he had thought of and dreamed of had all been shattered.

Illustration: Job lost everything

Illustration: Some enjoy making mountains out of mole hills.

B. The Privilege of Joseph's Life (20-23)

As Joseph pondered what to do about his situation, God sent an angel to tell Joseph that he was about to gain far more than he stood to lose. Joseph finds out that he is the man who has been chosen to raise the Messiah. He had been handpicked by God to provide Jesus with His physical and spiritual training. His is a privilege that is unique to all.

Illustration:

Sometimes, the Lord's assignments are costly, but they always pay back far more than they require from us. In fact, just the privilege of being chosen by God to do anything is a privilege beyond description. Thank God, He chooses the common man to carry out the dictates and plans of the Lord.

C. The Priorities of Joseph's Life (24-25)

Joseph willingly took the assignment offered to him by God. In spite of the ridicule and the humiliation, he was willing to make the Lord's will a priority in his life. He was willing to obey the clear command of God without question!

Illustration:

Do not fear God's purposes. They may look bad in the beginning, but in the end, He will be glorified and you will be blessed - Rom. 8:28; Rom. 5:3-5; 2 Cor. 4:15-17

Romans 8:28

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

Romans 5:3-5

And not only so, but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; [4] And patience, experience; and experience, hope: [5] And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

2 Cor. 4:15-17

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. [16] For which cause we faint not;

but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. [17] For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

3. DON'T FEAR GOD'S PRESENTATION (LUKE 2:8-20)

The Fear Not of Salvation

A. The Burden of These Shepherds

These men were the social outcasts of the day. They were usually vulgar, dirty, smelly and unkept. They were also religious outcasts. By virtue of their very jobs, they were defiled and considered unfit to participate in the ceremonies of the Temple. They were separated from both God and man. If any men every needed hope, these men did! Hope is what they got!

B. The Blessedness of These Shepherds Lives (9-14)

These outcast keepers of the lambs are the first to receive the news that the Lamb of God has come into the world. What a privilege has been afforded to these humble shepherds.

C. The Brilliance of These Shepherds (15-20)

After these shepherds met the baby Jesus, they were forever changed. They left the manger spreading the good news that Messiah had come.

Close:

Three times the angels came and three times there was a reaction based in fear. However, when the fear had been dealt with and the Lord's message was allowed to come through, the message was seen for what it really was a promise of grace. So it is this Christmas season.

There may be those things around you that you fear, but if you can learn the lesson that Mary, Joseph and the shepherds learned, and that is to trust the Lord whatever the cost, then you will find that He can turn fear to peace this season for you.

1. Fret Not - He loves you - (John 13:1).
2. Faint Not - He holds you - (Psalm 139:10).
3. Fear Not - He keeps you - (Psalm 121:5).