

“Fear Not”

Luke 2:8-19

Fear is often a misunderstood emotion

Fear is a choice.

Summary:

1. Fear is a very real emotion and we have the ability and responsibility to respond properly to our fear
2. Fear can be a negative, paralyzing and controlling component of our lives
3. Fear also can be a beneficial, positive, and constructive component

* To understand fear in the Scriptures; “Context is King”

Three Times: Fear is evident at the appearance of an angel

- 1. Luke 1:8-15** An Angel appears to Zechariah
- 2. Luke 1:26-33** An angel appears to announce Mary’s pregnancy
- 3. Luke 2:8-14** An angel appeared to the shepherds

Lesson – We should be overwhelmed with AWE AND WONDER.

Three Times: Fear is evident because of circumstances

- 1. Luke 1:57-66** – The birth of John the Baptist
- Lesson:** When it is obvious that God is at work in the life of one of his people fear will grip those who see it.

2. Matt 1:18-21 - Joseph was told, “do not fear to take Mary as your wife...”

Lesson: When we allow fear to extinguish faith we will miss the joy, hope and blessing that God has in store for us.

3. Matt 2:19-22 – Joseph was afraid to return to Judea

Lesson – There are times when fear can assist our discernment.

One Time: Fear is a desirable response to God

Luke 1:46-55 – Mary’s Song “His mercy is for those who fear Him”

Lesson - “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom” however, if we remain in fear, that fear has the potential to cripple our faith.

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