

Do Not Be Afraid

The most repeated command of the Bible – ‘*Do not be afraid*’

- Fear: anxiety caused by danger
- “We have nothing to fear but fear itself”
- Some fear is good.

I. Good Fear:

The good sense to be afraid

Be afraid of . . .

- Sin. Ex.20:20
- Wrath of God. Mt.17:....5
- Judgment. Hb.10:26-31
- Hell. Lk.8:28, 31
- Valid concerns.
 - Ac.27:9
 - Ac.19:26, 29-31

Be afraid of . . .

- Valid concerns.

Why leave Athens?

War

Plague

Lawlessness

Immorality

Sophists

Lawsuits

Modern list:

Criminals

Accidents

War

Disease

Death

Poverty

I. Good Fear:
The good sense to be afraid

II. Bad Fear:
Cowardice is condemned

What do many fear?

1. Persecution.

Mt.10:23, flee... (24:16). Mt.10:28

What do many fear?

1. Persecution.

2. Rejection.

- Ezk.2:6; 3:9, Jews
- Jn.9:20-22, Jews

Common
People
Jn.7:13

The
Rulers
Jn.12:42f

Counselor
Jn.19:38
Mk.15:43

Lord's
Disciples
Jn.20:19

What do many fear?

1. Persecution.

2. Rejection.

3. Truth. Isa.30:10-11

- Some are afraid to admit errors...
- Some fear that truth may demand a change (beliefs; life; friends)
- “We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light” (Plato)

What do many fear?

1. Persecution.
2. Rejection.
3. Truth.
4. Cost of gospel. Lk.14:28

I. Good Fear:
The good sense to be afraid

II. Bad Fear:
The good sense to be afraid

III. Fearing Fear Itself:
Consequences

People are afraid of . . .

1. Failure, defeat. Nu.13.
2. Negative impact on others. Nu.14:1-3 –
Nu.32:9
3. Paralysis. Mt.25:14...25.

I. Good Fear:
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III. Fearing Fear Itself:
Consequences

IV. How To Overcome Fear?

1. Grow in faith / trust

Num.13 – giants are fearful

Cannot compare with God.

All spies saw same giants...

Two are eager to conquer

Ten are afraid

Ten perished

Two survived...they lived by faith

Cowardice insults God

1. Grow in faith / trust

Num.13 – giants are fearful

Josh.1:9 – do not be afraid...

Had the giants shrunk? ...died out?

Had the Canaanites moved out?

Had Canaanites converted to Judaism?

Had Canaanites destroyed their weapons?

1. Grow in faith / trust

Num.13 – giants are fearful

Josh.1:9 – do not be afraid...

Mt.8:26 – faith chokes fear.

1. Grow in faith / trust
2. Fear God, not fear

Dan.3:16-18 – greatest king on earth

Lk.12:4-5 – public proclamations (3) may cost lives... Disobedience and apostasy cost eternal life

Hb.10:31 – Omnipotent, eternal, and just...

1. Grow in faith / trust
2. Fear God, not fear
3. **We are not alone**

Acts 7 – Hb. 11 – others do it

Acts 18:9 – Paul . . . 2 Tim.1:7 – Timothy

Acts 28:15

1 Jn.4:18, perfect love...