

*“Do not Fear!”*

## 1. **Intro:**

- 1.1. **New Web Site Update** –
- 1.2. **What do you fear?**
- 1.3. **Researchers at Johns Hopkins University reported that 30 years ago, the greatest fears of grade school children were:** 1. Animals 2. Being in a dark room 3. High places 4. Strangers 5. Loud noises. **Today, kids are afraid of the following:** 1. Divorce 2. Nuclear war 3. Cancer 4. Pollution 5. Being mugged.
- 1.4. **Types of fear?**
- 1.5. **Social Phobias** (fear involving other people & social situations)  
**Specific Phobias** (spiders, dogs, elevators)  
**Agoraphobias** (going outside a small safe area)  
 Peladophobia: fear of **baldness** and **bald people**.  
 Chaetophobia: fear of **hairy people**.  
 Porphyrophobia: fear of the **color purple**.  
 Phobophobia: fear of **being afraid**.
- 1.6. **How to face one's Fears?**  
 We had been dating for months, and I knew that Sam was very fond of me. But he was so shy it seemed that he would never get up the courage to propose. Then his mother invited me for dinner. His whole family was present, including an aunt and uncle from out of town. The next day Sam asked what I thought of his aunt and uncle. I told him, "I like them very much." He said, "They like you very much, too. In fact, they asked me when we were getting married." He paused. "What shall I tell them?"
- 1.7. **Outline:** Fearing to Reveal your True Self; Fearing Physical Death; Fearing You are Worthless; Fearing to Publicly Proclaim your Faith; Fearing what to Say.

## 2. **FEARING TO REVEAL YOUR TRUE SELF! (1-3)**

- 2.1. **Hypocrisy** – “acting a part” It is one who is never genuine; he’s always play acting.
  - 2.1.1. The basis of hypocrisy is **insincerity**.
  - 2.1.2. God would rather have a blunt, honest sinner, **than** someone who puts on an act of goodness!<sup>1</sup>
- 2.2. Jesus charged the Pharisees w/hypocrisy **because** they tried to hide what they really were behind **masks** of **outward religious practices**.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *The Gospel of Luke*. (W. Barclay, lecturer in the University of Glasgow, Ed.). The Daily study Bible series, Rev. ed.

- 2.3. Often when you **fear people**, you start to **hide the truth**, & this leads to **hypocrisy**.
- 2.3.1. When we **fear people**, then we are in danger of **compromising** in order to please them. *And then there we are “playacting” again!*
- 2.4. Hypocrisy is like **yeast** because it “*starts small, spreads, & eventually infects the whole.*”
- 2.5. Hypocrisy is **destined to fail** because eventually God will **reveal all things** & God is the final judge.

### 3. **FEARING PHYSICAL DEATH! (4,5)**

- 3.1. *To fear(5) or not to fear(7), that is the question!*
- 3.1.1. Q: Which is it? - **All** should fear His Sovereign power; but **once a child of His**, never fear your worth to Him!
- 3.2. **Man’s** power over **man** is strictly limited to **this life**.
- 3.2.1. A man can destroy another mans **life** but not his **soul**.
- 3.2.2. Don’t fear physical death, but spiritual death.
- 3.3. **God’s** power is such that it can blot out a man’s very **soul**!
- 3.3.1. May it be said of us as it was of **John Knox** (as his body was being lowered into the grave) “Here lies one who **feared God** so much, that he **never feared** the face of man.”
- 3.3.2. Wow, we fear man to the point of not wanting to dress “**out of style**”!
- 3.4. **One time many years ago, the king of Hungary found himself depressed and unhappy.** He sent for **his brother**, a good-natured but rather **indifferent** prince. The king said to him, “I am a great sinner; I fear to meet God.” But the prince only laughed at him. Though he was a believer, the king had gotten a glimpse of his guilt for the way he’d been living lately, and he seriously wanted help. In those days it was customary if the executioner **sounded a trumpet** before a man’s door at any hour, it was a signal that he was to be led to his execution. The king sent the executioner in the dead of night to sound the fateful blast **at his brother’s door**. The prince realized with horror what was happening. Quickly dressing, he stepped to the door and was seized by the executioner, and dragged pale and trembling into the king’s presence. In an agony of terror he fell on his knees before his brother and begged to know how he had offended him. “My brother,” answered the king, “if the sight of a **human executioner** is so terrible to you, shall not I, having grievously offended God, fear to be brought before the **judgment seat of Christ**?”

- 3.5. (4) **Q:** Was this an important statement to the 1<sup>st</sup> century believers?
- 3.6. **Matthew** suffered martyrdom by being slain with a sword in Ethiopia.  
**Mark** died at Alexandria, after being cruelly dragged through the streets.  
**Luke** was hanged on an olive tree in Greece.  
**John** was put into a caldron of boiling oil, escaped death in a miraculous manner, & afterwards banished to Patmos.  
**Peter** was crucified upside down at Rome.  
**James the Greater** was beheaded at Jerusalem.  
**James the Less** was thrown from a lofty pinnacle of the temple, and then beaten to death with a fuller's club.  
**Philip** was hanged up against a pillar at Hierapolis in Phrygia.  
**Bartholomew** was flayed alive.  
**Andrew** was bound to a cross, where he preached to his persecutors until he died.  
**Thomas** was run through with a lance at Coromandel in the East Indies.  
**Jude** was shot to death with arrows.  
**Matthias** was first stoned, and then beheaded.  
**Barnabas** of the Gentiles was stoned to death by the Jews at Salonika.  
**Paul** after various tortures and persecutions was at length beheaded at Rome by the Emperor Nero.
- 3.7. **Q:** Is this an important statement to **many** today?
- 3.7.1. Yes, many suffering for their faith in our world today.
- 3.8. **Q:** Is this an important statement to **you & I** today?
- 3.8.1. Yes, because we must learn to fear God more than man.
- 3.8.2. We fear men **so much** because we fear God **so little**.

#### 4. **FEARING YOU ARE WORTHLESS!** (6,7)

- 4.1. **2 copper coins** – *asSARions* – smallest Roman coin.
- 4.1.1. Worth about 1/16<sup>th</sup> of a denarius.
- 4.2. You are **important** to God. You are **precious** in His sight!
- 4.2.1. Hear Jesus, as He teaches the **security** His children have in Him.
- 4.2.2. To God, we are never lost in the crowd!
- 4.2.3. Not even a little brown common sparrow, which has very little value, is forgotten before God.
- 4.2.3.1. If God provides so beautifully for the **least of his creatures**, then how much more will he provide for **the greatest of His creatures?**
- 4.2.4. The Jews were so impressed with the individual care of God that they said that **every blade of grass** had its **guardian angel**. (Barclay)
- 4.2.5. Each of us can say, “**God cares for me!**”
- 4.3. **Ravi Zacharias Podcast** [Penn State Q & A]  
 Atheist friend, read in Genesis “women shall be cursed with pain in childbirth.” - “*I refuse to believe in something that doesn't believe in me.*” -

She must see herself as having **worth & value**. - If atheism is true she has no value, no point of reference for her worth. - Where do her morals come from? She borrowed from a Judeo/Christian worldview & then uses it to try to debunk it. - **What Jesus did for women?** {Women caught in adultery(time period); Alabaster jar broken; res.} **Context** – sin has a cost. So read the whole context, read how Jesus placed value on women.

- 4.4. There was a man who loved old books. He met an acquaintance who had just thrown away a Bible that had been stored in the attic of his ancestral home for generations. “I couldn’t read it,” the friend explained. “Somebody named **Guten-something** had printed it.” “Not Gutenberg!” the book lover exclaimed in horror. “That Bible was one of the first books ever printed. Why, a copy just sold for over two million dollars!” His friend was unimpressed. “Mine wouldn’t have brought a dollar. Some fellow named Martin Luther had scribbled all over it in German.”
- 4.4.1. **His name scribbled all over you brings you worth!**
- 4.5. We know the **cost** of everything and the **value** of nothing!
- 4.5.1. T. Paine said, “What we obtain **too cheap**, we esteem **too lightly**: **Tis dearness only that gives everything its value.**”
- 4.5.2. **Major A. H. Peuchen**(a millionaire aboard the Titanic) left \$300,000 in money, jewelry and securities in a box in his cabin. He said, “The money seemed a mockery at that time,...I picked up three oranges instead.”  
[Those 3 oranges just went up in value, \$100,000 each!]
- 4.6. I believe **two of the greatest fears** people struggle with today are the fear that **they will never be loved** and the fear that **they will never be able to love**.
- 4.6.1. People are seeking meaningful, intimate and lasting relationships.
- 4.6.2. You may not “feel” of worth.  
You may have “been told” you have no value.  
You may have “thought” you are of no importance.
- 4.6.3. But God has made you accepted in the beloved.  
God declares your worth.
- 4.6.4. God has made you in His image.

## 5. **FEARING TO PUBLICLY PROCLAIM YOUR FAITH! (8-10)**

- 5.1. **CONFESS OR DENY?** (8-10)
- 5.2. Jesus encourages them not to be afraid to acknowledge their faith publicly.
- 5.2.1. Some have interpreted this to mean that you **have** to come forward & make a ‘*public confession of Christ*’ known as “the altar call”.
- 5.3. (10) **Why is that the unforgivable sin?** Because in such a state *repentance becomes impossible*.
- 5.3.1. **If** a man doesn’t even realize that he’s sinning, **if** goodness no longer makes any appeal to him, he cannot repent.

- 5.3.2. **God** has not shut him out; by **his repeated refusals** he has shut himself out.
- 5.3.3. That means that the one man who can **never** have committed the unforgivable sin is **the man who fears that he has!**  
For once a man has committed it, he is so dead to God that he is conscious of no sin at all. ☹️
- 5.4. If a man for long enough refuses to use a faculty he will lose it. [Examples]
- 5.4.1. If we don't use a part of the body for an extended period it **atrophies**.
- 5.4.2. **Darwin** tells how when he was a young man he loved **poetry** and **music**; but he so devoted himself to **biology** that he completely neglected them. The consequence was that in later life **poetry meant nothing** to him and **music** was only a noise, and he said that if he had his **life to live over** again he would see to it that he would **read poetry** and **listen to music** so that he would not lose the faculty of enjoying them.<sup>3</sup>
- 5.4.3. **Just so** we can lose the faculty of recognizing God!
- 5.4.3.1. By repeatedly **refusing God's word**, by repeatedly **taking our own way**, by repeatedly **shutting our eyes to God** and **closing our ears to him**, we can come to a stage when to us **evil** becomes **good** and **good** becomes **evil**.
- 5.4.3.2. That is what happened to the scribes and Pharisees.
- 5.4.3.3. They had so **blinded** and **deafened** themselves to God that when He came they called him the devil. (11:15)

## 6. **FEARING WHAT TO SAY! (11,12)**

- 6.1. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Gospel the favorite title of the Holy Spirit is the *Paraclete*.
- 6.1.1. *Parakletos* means **someone who stands by to help!**
- 6.1.2. It can be used of a **witness** or an **advocate** to plead our cause.
- 6.1.3. In the day of trouble there need be no fear, **for the Holy Spirit of God** stands by to **help**.<sup>4</sup>
- 6.1.4. He will help us in both our **inner attitude** & **outward response**.
- 6.2. **End:**
- 6.3. **"Faith is a crow which loves to perch on scarecrows"** (i.e. recognizes it for what it truly is, an advertisement for some very juicy and delicious fruit which is to be had for the picking)
- 6.4. **General George Patton when in Sicily said, "I learned very early in my life never to take counsel of my fears!"**
- 6.5. A John Hopkins University doctor says, **"We do not know why it is that worriers die sooner than the non-worriers, but that is a fact."**  
**We are inwardly fashioned for faith** and not for **fear**. God made us that way.  
**If fear and anxiety are sand** in the machinery of life; **faith is the oil**.

<sup>3</sup> *The Gospel of Luke*. (W. Barclay, lecturer in the University of Glasgow, Ed.). The Daily study Bible series, Rev. ed

<sup>4</sup> *The Gospel of Luke*. (W. Barclay, lecturer in the University of Glasgow, Ed.). The Daily study Bible series, Rev. ed.

6.6. At age 16 Andor Foldes was already a **skilled pianist**, but he was experiencing a troubled year. In the midst of the young Hungarian's personal struggles, one of the most renowned pianists of the day came to Budapest. **Emil von Sauer** was famous not only for his abilities; he was also the last surviving pupil of the great **Franz Liszt**. Von Sauer requested that Foldes play for him. Foldes obliged with some of the most difficult works of Bach, Beethoven, and Schumann. When he finished, Von Sauer walked over to him and **kissed him on the forehead**. "My son," he said, "when I was your age I became a student of Liszt. He kissed me on the forehead after my first lesson, saying, 'Take good care of this kiss—it comes from Beethoven, who gave it to me after hearing me play.' I have waited for years to pass on this sacred heritage, but now I feel you deserve it."

- 6.6.1. **God the Father** has Kissed you with His thoughts toward you!  
 Ps.139:17,18 "How precious to me are your thoughts, O God! How vast is the sum of them! Were I to count them, they would outnumber the grains of sand."  
**Jesus** has kissed you sweet saint with value & worth!  
 The **Holy Spirit** has kissed you with His love poured into your hearts!
- 6.6.2. Will you pass on His Kiss?