

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-Red Bud, Illinois

Adult Bible Class: "Fear or Faith; Terror or Trust? Worldly Worry or Christian Living"

Hymn: 360 "All My Heart Again Rejoices" (In stanza 3 what is the answer to the question?)

Introduction-

Most biblical uses of the word "fear" refer to the honor, respect, awe and love that our Triune God deserves from all people in the sense of "you shall fear the Lord your God" (Deuteronomy 10:20 among others), or "the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 1:7). This is the understanding Martin Luther has of this word in his explanation of the First Commandment, "We should fear, love and trust in God above all things."

However, a minority of biblical uses of the word "fear" refer to what we normally would understand the meaning of the word to be, that is, "to be afraid of" something or someone. Those are the passages that we will focus on in this study.

What do you fear? Is there something that you are afraid of?

What do we have to fear? Are we to live our lives frozen by fear or fueled by faith? What does our fear say about our faith? The point of our fear is the place of our idolatry. What we are afraid of losing is that which becomes our false god(s).

I. Why We Are to Be Afraid and Why We Are Not to Be Afraid

Genesis 3:9-10 But the Lord called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." **Why is Adam afraid?** _____

Exodus 3:5-6 Then He said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." And He said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. **Why is Moses afraid?** _____

Psalms 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

What is there to fear? _____ **Why not fear it?** _____

Proverbs 22:13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!"

Is his fear real? _____ **What is he using his "fear" as an excuse for?** _____

Daniel 3:13-18 **What is there for the three young men to fear?** _____

Why are they not afraid of the king's threat? _____

Matthew 10:26-33 **What is there for us to fear?** _____

What should we really fear? _____

Why should we not be afraid of this? _____

What is Jesus' challenge to us here? _____

Matthew 14:26-33 What did Jesus' disciples fear? _____
Why should they not be afraid? _____
What is Jesus' challenge to His disciples here? _____

Mark 4:35-41 What did Jesus' disciples fear? _____
Why should they not be afraid? _____
What is Jesus' challenge to His disciples here? _____

Mark 5:35-43 What does this man fear? _____
Why should he not be afraid? _____
What is Jesus' challenge to those present? _____

John 20:19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." What did the disciples fear? _____
Why do they not need to be afraid? _____

Romans 13:3-4 For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer.
What is there to fear here? _____
How can we avoid this fear? _____

Hebrews 2:14-15 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. What is there to fear here? _____
Why are we not to be afraid? _____

1 Peter 3:5-6 For this is how the holy women who hope in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening.
What is there to fear here? _____ Why not be afraid? _____

1 John 4:18-19 There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. We love because He first loved us. What is there to fear here? _____ Why not be afraid? _____

Revelation 2:10 (Jesus says) "Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and for ten days you will have tribulation. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life."
What is there to fear here? _____
Why are we not to be afraid? _____