

FEAR NOT

WILLIS 12/24/11

LUKE 1-2

More than a fictional Christmas Story, the accounts of Lk1-2 are the blessed invasion of a merciful God coming to change the hopeless disposition of mankind. In 2 action packed chapters Luke reveals mans fearful condition and God's favorful response.

- **In these 2 chapters we see 3 angelic appearances; 3 dispositional appeals and 3 divine promises.**

Lk 1:13-14; Lk1:26-33; Lk2:7-11

The 3 Angelic Appearances were:

- 1. Gabriel to Zacharias**
- 2. Gabriel to Mary**
- 3. Gabriel to the Shepherds**

The 3 Dispositional Appeals were:

- 1. Zacharias: Do not be afraid** (fear not)
- 2. Mary: Do not be afraid** (fear not)
- 3. Shepherds: Do not be afraid** (fear not)

While the appearances and the appeals were basically all the same the promises were not. Though much could be said about the appearances and the appeals, it is the promises I want us to focus on tonight for it is in the promise we find the freedom from fear.

- Freedom from fear is not just a promise it is a command. The reason it's commanded is because freedom is not based on circumstance it's predicated upon promise. **God promises answers, favor and a Savior therefore we need not fear.**

Let's look at the 3 promises from God and let them speak into any circumstance we might be facing today.

1. **Answers: Lk1:13 “Do not be afraid for your prayer has been answered.”** Where there are no answers there is legitimate reason for fear. But where there is a God willing and capable of arranging whatever is necessary to answer prayer, there is no reason for fear.
 - Read the Tablecloth Story
 - **When answers are a promise from God there is sufficient reason to fear not.** 35 years of separation or a lifetime of questions, they are nothing when compared to a God who promises answers.

2. **Favor: Lk1:30 “And the angel said to her, do not be afraid for you have found favor with God.”** Where there is no favor with God there is legitimate reason for fear but where there is a God willing and able to extend favor...then anything is possible.
 - Read the 26 Angels Story
 - **When divine favor is a promise from God there is sufficient reason to fear not,** the favor of God will protect you, empower you or provide for you. Whatever your reason for fear it is nothing when compared to a God who promises favor.

3. **A Savior: Lk2:10-11 “And the angel said, do not be afraid for I bring you good news of great joy...for today in the city of David has been born for you a Savior who is Christ the Lord.”**
 - Where there is no Savior there is legitimate reason for fear but when a Savior is a promise from God even what seemed like bad news becomes good and cause for great joy.
 - Tell story of Glen the framer saved...Monday August 16th 2004 only 2nd full week Monday I had been home in 30 years and have not been home in the 7 years since. Just happened to be home because I had just been released from the hospital from cancer surgery so the Elders did not go to Family Camp early...
 - **When a Savior is a promise from God there is sufficient reason to fear not,** no matter how deep the guilt or justified the shame they are nothing when compared to a God who promises a Savior.

Whatever you might be facing tonight God's word to you still is "Do not be afraid." The God we serve is a God with answers. He is a God who leads with favor because He is a God who provided a Savior.

- Though man was lost in sin separated from the God we need, Jesus Christ was born, crucified, died and rose again that those who confess Christ as Lord might be saved.
- It's no wonder Gabriel called it, "Good news of great joy..."

If you are here tonight and you do not know Christ as Savior, let this be the night when you accept His promise.