Do Not Be Afraid

Greg Kline · Genesis 12:10–20

INTRODUCTION

- When he allowed a certain human emotion to overcome his good decision making, it stands up as a red flag to me, because if it can happen to Abraham, it can certainly happen to me too.
- Abraham in Genesis chapter 12, right after he showed the utmost faith, the utmost trust in God, is paralyzed and sins because he was afraid.
- The fear Abraham had was of Pharaoh. They're going to kill me, not of God. In fact, if he had any fear of God, he wouldn't have lied.

1 Adam Hid Because He Was Afraid

Genesis 3:8–10

- I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid. Because I was naked and I hid myself.
- Now the irony of Adam hiding isn't simply that you can't hide from God.

2 Ungodly Fear Kept Them From God's Great Riches

Numbers 13:30–33; Numbers 14:1–3

- If you should trust anybody for any reason, the Israelites should have trusted in God's power to make the impossible possible.
- We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are.
- And we seem to ourselves like grasshoppers. And so we seemed to them.
- Ungodly fear kept them from God's great riches.

3 For Fear of the Pharisees They Did Not Confess

John 12:42–43

- Many even of the rulers or authorities believed in him. But for fear of the Pharisees, they did not confess it.
- For they loved the glory that comes from man more than the glory that comes from God.
- It was a fear, essentially, of missing out on what this world offers.

4 Fear Can Lead to Worry

Matthew 6:25–33

- Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious. Or some translations, do not worry about your life.
- This worry is a faith problem.
- The worry Jesus is talking about is sinful because it elevates stuff, things in this life over God.

- Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things, the very physical you're not to be worried about, the physical things that should not overcome our faith, all these things shall be added to you.
- And which of you, by being anxious, can add a single hour to his span of life?

5 Fear Can Keep Us From What We Need Most

James 5:13–16

- Fear can keep us from the very thing we need most at a time of fright.
- One of God's ways for overcoming fear, for overcoming the guilt that Adam would have suffered, is confession.
- Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another that you may be healed.
- The problem with fear is, when it comes to fear of others, is it keeps us from presenting ourselves honestly and openly.
- When we are afraid and we have sinned, do we act like Adam? And at the time we need God most, we go and hide from him.

6 Fear Can Keep Us From Pleasing God

Matthew 25:24–30

- Ungodly fear may actually keep us from serving God in a pleasing way. And if we miss that, we've missed all there is.
- Master, I knew you to be a hard man. Reaping where you do not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed. So I was afraid.
- Fear keeps us from running to and embracing God. Fear keeps us looking at the here and now instead of the hereafter.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Don't be afraid because God knows your circumstances. Don't be afraid because God has proven he will be there for you. Don't be afraid. Because God has promised to be with you always.**

MY NOTES