



Fear Not

Joseph: What Will People Think? (Matthew 1:18-25)

By Pastor David Hillis, 06 December 2015

BIG IDEA: Faithful people listen to their fears; they just aren't directed by them.

- Fears of what others may think can hinder us in all kinds of ways, and the sad part is that we can miss out on God's perfect plans for us when we choose to let fear hinder us from following Him.
- Problems come when we hesitate to trust in God's guidance or do what we know is right because of what others might think if we do. It's wise to listen to the thoughts and feelings of others, and understand their point of view. But in the end, our goal is not to do what someone else thinks is best if we know that doing the right thing, the Godly thing, is different.
- If you are a follower of Jesus, there will be multiple times in your life when, in big ways and in small ways, you are going to be faced with opportunities like this, to either obey God and do what is right, or to do something easier to hold onto the approval of others.
- Pleasing God often involves disappointing people (Galatians 1:10; Proverbs 29:25 MSG; 2 Corinthians 5:9-10).
- When we listen and follow God's guidance and refuse to give into our fears, we seldom know what the end result will be.

My Next Step

What am I fearful of? What does God want me to do with that fear, that situation?

FOR FURTHER STUDY/REFLECTION THIS WEEK:

1. Review Matthew 1:18-25 again this week, asking God to help you see insights from the story that you can apply to your own life. How might you be stuck on what people think about you? Are there any places in your life where the "safe" or "logical" thing to do is actually a fearful response, and not God's will for you?
2. Think back on a time when you were criticized for your obedience to God. What did you learn from that experience?
3. Take a few moments to make a list of situations in your life today where fear might play a factor in the outcome. Make a decision starting today to commit those to prayer, to seek God's will and ask God to give you the confidence to trust Him and "fear not."
4. Read John 12:37-43. What does Jesus have to say about human praise?
5. Read Galatians 1:6-10. What were the Galatians doing that was outside of God's plan? What does the Bible say about those who choose to please people over God (verse 10)?
6. Read 1 Thessalonians 2:1-13, where Paul reflects on his visit to the area and a message he was called by God to give that was not well received. How did Paul react? What was the end result?