

First Things First

Thy Will Be Done - Week 3 (6-14-23)

Matt. 6:24-34

How does seeking God and His kingdom first eliminate fear and anxiety?

I. Establishes Your Heart

A. Proverbs 4:23 - "Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life."

1. Keep = Keep watch, protect, keep from, preserve
2. Whatever captures the heart captures the man.
 - a) Matt. 6:21 - "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."
 - b) Satan knows that if he can capture your heart with fear, he has a solid grip on your life.

B. Gen. 3:6-13

1. Adam and Eve were still in the garden when they experienced fear for the very first time.
 - a) You can have absolute peace in the middle of chaos and tremendous fear in the middle of paradise.
2. Beguiled = cheat, deceive; entertain false hopes
 - a) The enemy wants you to believe that being anxious and fearful will somehow fix the problem. That you NEED to be fearful and worried about whatever it is that you're facing.
 - (1) He wants you to completely forget about how faithful God has been to you.
 - (2) What we truly NEED is a word from God and to never let go of it no matter what.

C. Fear and anxiety come from an unstable heart that is uncertain and easily tossed by the wind.

1. James 1:5-8
2. We must learn to remain in faith and live in confidence of Who God is no matter what our body or mind is telling us.
 - a) Hebrews 10:38-39 - Don't draw back
 - (1) Don't let physical circumstances, that will change, cause you to waver and doubt the never-changing nature of God.
 - b) 2 Tim. 1:7 - "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."
 - c) By being in fear/anxiety we are denying the truth of Who God is!

D. Psalm 112:4-8

1. Fixed = prepare, make ready; erect, set up; determine, fix, appoint; make firm
2. Established = Support; sustain, help; befall; supported, unflinching, firm
 - a) Evil tidings can be very real circumstances that must be dealt with. But what is important is that the heart remains fixed on trusting the Lord in the process.

3. Hebrews 13:8-9

- a) Your heart becomes established by the grace of God. His Grace must be recognized and received.

II. Sets Your Focus

A. Fear and anxiety are tools of the enemy to take us away from the plan, power, and presence of God. - Its a plan of distraction, and miss-placed priorities.

1. What you focus on is what you give strength to. It's what you are worshiping.

- a) Worship is simply responding to something or someone as greater than yourself.

(1) This can be a positive or negative response.

(2) The enemy will try to use physical circumstances to get you to replace your focus (worship) of God with focus (worship) of satan and his lies.

B. Recognize when the enemy is trying to put his spirit of fear on you and refocus your heart's attention on our loving God Who never changes!

1. Remember that with Holy Spirit's help, you have control of your heart.

- a) John 14:27 - **Let not** your heart be troubled!

2. Philip. 4:4-9

- a) Write out your own example for each thing listed in verse 8.

III. Saturates You in God's Love

A. 1 John 4:16-19

1. Perfect (mature, fully developed) love does not put up with fear because it fully understands God's love.

- a) Vs 18 - AMP

B. Gal. 5:6 - "For in Jesus Christ neither circumcision availeth any thing, nor uncircumcision; but faith which worketh by love."

1. AMP - "...faith activated and expressed and working through love."

2. Romans 8:15-18

- a) When we focus on the loving Spirit of God that we have been given, then we will see that the troubles that we face in this world aren't even worth comparing to the glory that God is working in us!