

Have No Fear; Matthew 10:26-28

I. Fear

- A. I think we all understand the meaning of this word
- B. TV show, “Total Blackout”
- C. Fear of the dark
- D. Being home alone (normally at a younger age)
 - 1. All the lights in the house are on
 - 2. All the curtains closed
- E. Fear is being afraid of something that hasn’t even happened yet
 - 1. “It’s easy to get caught up in the details of our thoughts, fears and worries, where we spend a great deal of time imagining how they could play out, but then we attach ourselves to the emotional effects of such thoughts becoming real.”
 - 2. “I call them mind dramas. They’re fictional dramas about things that could go wrong in our life that occur only in our mind, but they make us feel like they’re actually going to happen. As we go through our daily life we hold on to the stress of these mind dramas, which often changes how we behave.”¹
- F. Some of us might experience this kind of fear as we are walking the neighborhood during our door knocking campaign
- G. Jesus is sending the 12 out on a “door knocking” campaign
- H. Matthew 10:5–7 (ESV);⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, “Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans,⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.⁷ And proclaim as you go, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’

II. Them

- A. Who is the “them” in our text?
- B. Matthew 10:16–18 (ESV);¹⁶ “Behold, I am sending you out as sheep in the midst of wolves, so be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.¹⁷ Beware of men, for they will deliver you over to courts and flog you in their synagogues,¹⁸ and you will be dragged before governors and kings for my sake, to bear witness before them and the Gentiles.
- C. As Jesus sends of his 12 Apostles he warns them of the things that will happen; persecution
- D. Jesus tells them to have no fear of things that will happen; court cases, floggings, stating your case to governors and kings
 - 1. “Have no fear of them” is an amazing statement considering the context
 - 2. “Sheep in the midst of wolves”
 - 3. These are real things that happened to real people because they proclaimed, “the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”
 - 4. They (the apostles) were promised to be given what to say to those who were about to judge them
- E. I could not imagine what they went through
- F. Luke 9:10 (ESV); On their return the apostles told him all that they had done. And he took them and withdrew apart to a town called Bethsaida.

III. Do Not Fear

- A. We fear so many things
 - 1. Death

¹ Alan Canberra. "Stop Worrying about Things That Haven't Happened." *Alan's Journey*. N.p., 27 Nov. 2013. Web. 08 Mar. 2017.

2. The unknown
 3. Our government (or a foreign government)
- B. We get lost in the future and sacrifice the present
 - C. Matthew 1:19–20 (ESV); ¹⁹ And her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to divorce her quietly. ²⁰ But as he considered these things, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary as your wife, for that which is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit.
 - D. Luke 1:11–13 (ESV); ¹¹ And there appeared to him an angel of the Lord standing on the right side of the altar of incense. ¹² And Zechariah was troubled when he saw him, and fear fell upon him. ¹³ But the angel said to him, “Do not be afraid, Zechariah, for your prayer has been heard, and your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you shall call his name John.
 - E. Revelation 2:8–11 (ESV); ⁸ “And to the angel of the church in Smyrna write: ‘The words of the first and the last, who died and came to life. ⁹ “ ‘I know your tribulation and your poverty (but you are rich) and the slander of those who say that they are Jews and are not, but are a synagogue of Satan. ¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. The one who conquers will not be hurt by the second death.’

IV. Joshua

- A. Could you imagine following in Moses’ footsteps?
- B. God encourages Joshua
- C. Joshua 1:8–9 (ESV); ⁸ This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹ Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”
- D. Luke 12:4–7 (ESV); ⁴ “I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have nothing more that they can do. ⁵ But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has authority to cast into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him! ⁶ Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷ Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.
- E. It is very clear that God wants us focused on our tasks in the present and not to worry about things that have not happened yet

V. Paul

- A. Acts 13:1–3 (ESV); ¹ Now there were in the church at Antioch prophets and teachers, Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen a lifelong friend of Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then after fasting and praying they laid their hands on them and sent them off.
- B. Paul had plenty to fear
 1. He escaped Damascus by being let down in a basket — Acts 9:23-25
 2. He was driven out of Antioch of Pisidia — Acts 13:50-51
 3. He was persecuted (attempted stoning) at Iconium — Acts 14:5-7
 4. He was stoned at Lystra — Acts 14:19
 5. He was beaten and imprisoned at Philippi — Acts 16:20-24

6. There are many more persecutions that Paul endured
- C. 2 Timothy 1:5–8 (ESV); ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control. ⁸ Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,
- D. Don't let fear cripple you — bear crawl in *Facing the Giants*
- VI. Have no Fear
- A. People have no power over our eternity
 - B. We have the power to choose how we respond to fear
 - C. Cower and be crippled by it
 - D. Boldly step forward with faith in our Father