

SUNDAY EVENING

LIVING IN THE REALITY OF FEAR – PSALM 34

2/4/2024

Sermon 2: Facing Our Fears

Text: Psalm 34

Theme: Why it is good for you to fear.

LAST WEEK:

- I. The temptation to sin when controlled by fear (1 Sam 19-21)
- II. The determination to praise the Lord when faced with fear (Psa 34:1-3)

Fear becomes sinful when:

- 1. It consumes our thinking
- 2. It controls our responses, words and actions
- 3. We begin to do handle it our own way
- 4. When it leads to unbelief in the love, goodness and wisdom of God

? So what is the primary temptation when we are afraid? To handle matters ourselves w/o asking God for help

Fear isn't a bad thing! We raise our children to be fearful of certain things (stove, traffic, etc). The initial response of the emotion of fear in-and-of-itself is not sin

Dealing with the background

I want to talk to you this evening about living in the reality of fear & WHY IT'S GOOD TO FEAR – Your circumstances are no doubt different than David's, but the reality of it may be the same

Why is it good for me to fear?

- I. Because it shows you have an honest/humble evaluation of yourself (vv. 2, 5, 6, 8, 18, 22)

When we say, "Lord, why is this happening to me?" **we don't have a right evaluation of ourselves**

...we say, "I don't deserve this!"

...we say, "Lord, after all I have done for you!"

It's not what we have done that counts; it's who HE IS that counts and what HE WANTS TO ACCOMPLISH

Why is it good for me to fear?

- II. Because it forces you to depend on the Lord (vv. 4, 18)

? Are you seeking the Lord or are you simply seeking for the Lord to take away your troubles?

Other impactful verses: vv. 6, 8, 17

2 Cor 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Psa 56:3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.
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