

Fear Not: The King Has Come

December 14, 2008

Today's sermon will look at three passages of Scripture that address one of our heart's fundamental unbelieving reactions: *fear*. First, we see it in the story of Advent when the shepherds are filled with fear at the appearance of the Angels. Second, the arrival of Jesus Christ as God in flesh is a result of Adam's sin and separation from a holy God. Third, through faith in this same Jesus Christ, our hearts can be delivered and redeemed from the fear that otherwise would consume us – as we see ourselves as adopted by our loving Heavenly Father.

1. The shepherd's reaction to the angels' message was fear

Luke 2:8 And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, *and they were filled with fear.* ¹⁰ And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy that will be for all the people. ¹¹ For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. ¹² And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, ¹⁴ "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!" (ESV)

2. Adam and Eve hid in fear because of their sin and disobedience of God

Genesis 3:9 But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "*I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid,* because I was naked, and I hid myself." (ESV)

3. The redemption of our hearts and the removal of fear is through faith in Jesus Christ

Romans 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ² For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. ³ For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. By sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. ⁵ For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. ⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace... ¹⁴ For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ *For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, "Abba! Father!"* ¹⁶ The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs- heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (ESV)