



FEAR NOT

November 27, 2022

Speaker: Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture: 1 John 4:18, Matthew 2:1-16

Sermon Overview:

Herod's fear of losing his status with men created a Christmas scenario full of chaos and more fear. It's not unusual to face fear, feel fear, and be influenced by fear. But what matters most is what you do with it. The Lord says, "Fear not, for I am with you" (Isaiah 41:10). We must learn to confront our fears with faith.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What has God promised?
2. What fears are raising themselves up against the promises of God?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. How was Herod offended by the birth of Jesus? How did that offense foster chaos and fear in the context of the first Christmas? What offense in your life is fostering chaos and fear in your life?
2. What does it look like to overlook an offense? Can you think of an example of a time that you didn't overlook an offense and reimagine what it would look like if you had?
3. Think deeply- how you identify who you are and who you pride yourself to be. Are there any aspects of your identity that are not rooted in God? How do those aspects bend your heart posture toward idolatry?

Dig Deeper:

1. How have you been allowing fear to dictate your decisions? If perfect love casts out all fear, then how can you change your mindset to let your love for God dominate those decisions? How will a change in your mindset change the scenario?
2. Think back to a scenario in which someone appeared to overreact. Can you reimagine the scenario in a way that gives that person grace, understanding that they may have been reacting out of past pain. What does giving a person grace in that scenario look like? Now imagine future scenarios where you listen well, ask anything, disagree freely, and love regardless.
3. Matthew 2:1-3 says that when Herod heard the news from the Magi that the King of the Jews had been born, he was “greatly disturbed” and “all Jerusalem with him.” All of Jerusalem wasn’t there with Herod, so what do you think that means that all Jerusalem was disturbed with him? Go onto Biblehub or another source for Bible commentaries and research what that phrase means. How do you think the disturbance of all of Jerusalem contributed to the Christmas context of chaos and fear?

Practical Application:

- Download the NCC app or visit ncc.re/daily to listen to short, daily teachings M-F accompanying this series.
- Join a small group ncc.re/groups to discover ways you can use your talents and passions to serve the various church campuses in-person and online.
- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).