

SERMON-BASED STUDY: FEAR NOT – WEEK ONE

Luke 1:26-38, ESV – ²⁶ In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And he came to her and said, "Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!" ²⁹ But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. ³⁰ And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. ³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

³⁴ And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?"

³⁵ And the angel answered her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God." ³⁸ And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Notes:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

QUICK REVIEW

Looking back at your notes from this week's teaching, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged, or confused you?

ENGAGE WITH THE MESSAGE

- 1 This week we learned that fear and faith are our choices when it comes to the things we do not yet see or know. Share a time when you have faced an unknown situation. Did you choose fear or faith? How did that work? Explain.

2 How do we turn fear into faith as we face the “God-known”?

3 Read Luke 1:37. How is this promise of God true in all of life? How have you seen this in your own life?

DIGGING DEEPER

A **Isaiah 46:8-11, ESV** – ⁸ “Remember this and stand firm, recall it to mind, you transgressors, ⁹ remember the former things of old; for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me, ¹⁰ declaring the end from the beginning and from ancient times things not yet done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose,’ ¹¹ calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of my counsel from a far country. I have spoken, and I will bring it to pass; I have purposed, and I will do it.

4 The passage above begins with the word “remember.” What are the Israelites to remember? Why are they to remember these things?

5 In verse 10, we read, “My counsel shall stand, and I will accomplish all my purpose.” Why do people fear statements like this?

6 How can remembering the work of God in the past give us rest in the present and when thinking about the future?

B *Psalm 139:1-14, ESV* – ¹ O LORD, you have searched me and known me! ² You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar. ³ You search out my path and my lying down and are acquainted with all my ways. ⁴ Even before a word is on my tongue, behold, O LORD, you know it altogether. ⁵ You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me. ⁶ Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high; I cannot attain it. ⁷ Where shall I go from your Spirit? Or where shall I flee from your presence? ⁸ If I ascend to heaven, you are there! If I make my bed in Sheol, you are there! ⁹ If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, ¹⁰ even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. ¹¹ If I say, “Surely the darkness shall cover me, and the light about me be night,” ¹² even the darkness is not dark to you; the night is bright as the day, for darkness is as light with you. ¹³ For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother’s womb. ¹⁴ I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.

7 What can we learn about God in the passage above?

8 How does He relate to us? How does it make you feel when you read that God knows you better than you know yourself?

9 How can this passage give us courage to put our lives in His hands?

TAKING IT HOME

Fear or faith are our choices when it comes to the things we do not yet see or know. In those moments, we are reminded to rest in His power, to remember His work, and courageously trust His plan. Are you resting in God? Are you remembering His work? Are you courageously following Him? Share with your group or accountability partner what God is speaking to you today. Pray for one another as you seek to rest, remember, and trust in His plan.

PRAISES AND PRAYER REQUEST

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FOR FURTHER STUDY

1 Chronicles 29:11

Psalm 77:11-15, 111:4-5

Jeremiah 32:17

Matthew 19:26