

FEAR NOT, PART 4

OVERCOMING FEAR

Luke 1:11-13; Luke 1:30-31; Matthew 1:20-21; Luke 2:9-11

The only thing we have to fear is God himself.

ZECHARIAH—the fear of disappointment: “It’s hard to hope again!” (Luke 1:5-25)

Those who submit to God’s disciplining love can become a mouthpiece for his amazing grace.

God’s word to those struggling with disappointment: “Do not be afraid.” (Luke 1:13)

MARY—the fear of inadequacy: “This is too big for me!” (Luke 1:26-38)

Any person totally submitted to God’s plan can change the world.

God’s word to those struggling with inadequacy: “Do not be afraid.” (Luke 1:30)

JOSEPH—the fear of rejection: “What will people think?” (Matthew 1:18-25)

Those who follow God at great personal cost to themselves will receive divine reassurance.

God’s word to those struggling with rejection: “Do not be afraid.” (Luke 1:20)

SHEPHERDS—the fear of the unknown: “This doesn’t make sense!” (Luke 2:1-20)

Ordinary people who take God at his word get a front row seat to his work in the world.

God’s word to those struggling with the fear of the unknown: “Do not be afraid.” (Luke 2:10)

HEROD—the fear of losing control: “I’m in charge here!” (Matthew 2:16-20)

Those who fight against God’s plan to rule and reign wind up losing their own kingdoms.

Herod is the only major Advent figure who doesn’t receive the reassuring word, “Do not be afraid.”

Overcoming Your Fears

1. Surrender the lie that stands behind the fear.
2. Submit to the truth that contradicts the fear.
3. Seek the Lord, who alone is to be feared.