

LBC- Freedom From the Fear of Man

2 Samuel 24:14

¹⁴ Then David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Let us now fall into the hand of the Lord for His mercies are great, but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

David left his punishment in God's hands, because he knew that God was full of tremendous mercy.

He gave only one stipulation: do not let me fall into the hand of man.

Why? Because David had learned a valuable lesson:
God is kind, but men are hard masters!

God is easier to please- and more ready to forgive- than people are!

Proverbs 29:25

²⁵ The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.

The basis of our trust in God:

Isaiah 41:8-13

⁸ "But you, Israel, My servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, Descendant of Abraham My friend,

⁹ You whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, And called from its remotest parts

And said to you, 'You are My servant, I have chosen you and not rejected you.

¹⁰ 'Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God.

I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, Surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand.'

God has chosen us, made us His servants, called us out to be His own, sworn He will not reject us, has become our God forever, says He will strengthen us, and help us, and uphold us with His right hand!

So what has so shaken us that we fear people and turn away from God?

Fear, which is misplaced trust. Particularly, the fear of man.

¹¹ "Behold, all those who are angered at you will be shamed and dishonored;

Those who contend with you will be as nothing and will perish.

¹² "You will seek those who quarrel with you, but will not find them,

Those who war with you will be as nothing and non-existent.

¹³ "For I am the Lord your God, who upholds your right hand, Who says to you, 'Do not fear, I will help you.'

People are attempting to hold us hostage through fear in one of 4 ways:

Anger- they want me to fear their displeasure, and to see it looming

Contention- they want me to fear their opposition, or the loss of their support

Quarreling- they want me to fear the nasty confrontation that is coming if I oppose them

War- They want me to fear the all-out war, the fallout, and the losses I will incur if I oppose them

God says these outcomes are all predetermined victories if our trust is in Him!

Hezekiah- from man-fear to God-fear 2 Kings 18&19

1. He attempted to placate the enemy with gifts to avoid the fight.
2. He attempted to conciliate- to strike a deal to lessen the consequences of the fight.
3. He accepts the fight, gets the prophet to pray for Him, and receives some encouragement.
4. He brings his indignation to God, and prays HIMSELF for God's vindication, and experiences a HUGE victory.

2 Kings 19:20

²⁰Then Isaiah the son of Amoz sent to Hezekiah saying, "Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, 'Because you have prayed to Me about Sennacherib king of Assyria, I have heard *you*.'

Luke 12:4-7

⁴"I say to you, My friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that have no more that they can do. ⁵But I will warn you whom to fear: fear the One who, after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him! ⁶Are not five sparrows sold for two cents? Yet not one of them is forgotten before God. ⁷Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Do not fear; you are more valuable than many sparrows.

Remind yourself that the worst they can do is kill you. Jesus recommends a contrasting fear!

Remind yourself that you are very valuable in the eyes of God, and He is not eager to see you harmed.

Colossians 3:2-4

²Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. ³For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.

Get your mind right! Your life is hidden with Christ in God!