



DAY 28



FEAR AND JOY

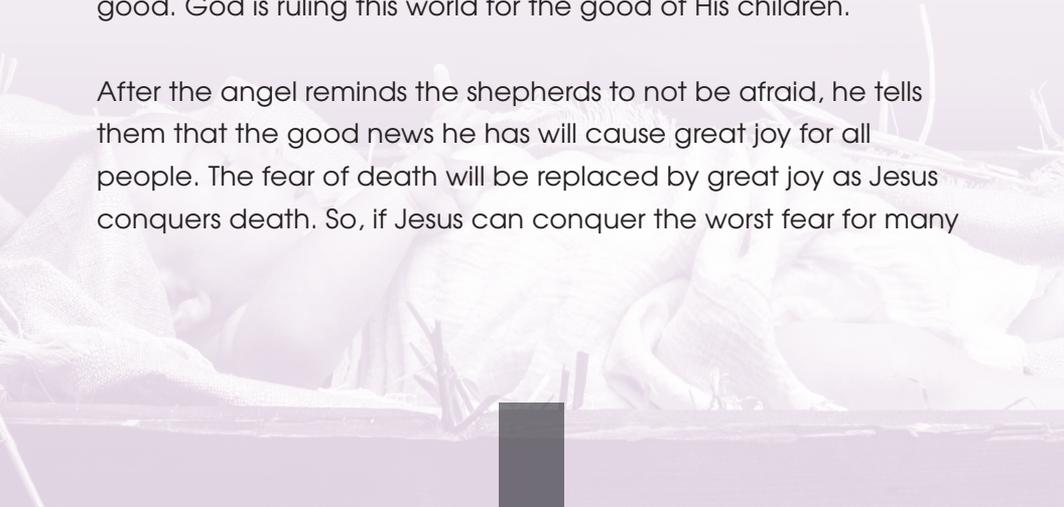
“An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people.’”

Luke 2:9-10

Think about the word fear for a moment. What images and thoughts come to your mind? Fear of rejection? Fear of missing a work deadline? Fear of an accident happening to someone in your family? Fear of failing a test at school? Fear of losing a job or source of income? The list could go on and on. As sinners, we have a natural bent towards fear.

The words of the angel to the shepherds to “Do not be afraid” remind us that Jesus came to conquer the ultimate fear – fear of death. Though our fears sometimes have merit, Jesus came to the world to remind us that God casts away fear because He is good. God is ruling this world for the good of His children.

After the angel reminds the shepherds to not be afraid, he tells them that the good news he has will cause great joy for all people. The fear of death will be replaced by great joy as Jesus conquers death. So, if Jesus can conquer the worst fear for many



of us, then surely God doesn't want us to fear the smaller things in life. You can believe God's promises. You can trust that He is working all things for His glory and our good.

As you prepare your hearts during this season, search your heart for where fears have taken root. Where can God replace your fear with joy?

What keeps you from trusting Him?

Father, we praise You for sending Jesus to defeat sin and death, and to humbly take the punishment for our sin. There is no one like You that rules the world with righteousness and graciously loves how You love. Thank You for this season as we look forward to the celebration of Jesus' birth and His eventual return. Remind us daily of Your goodness and the joy that only You can bring. Show us the ways that fear has taken place in our hearts. Fill us with Your Spirit and cast away any fear we might harbor. In Jesus' name, amen.

– JIMMY GUNN –

ASSOCIATE PASTOR, PRESCHOOL & ELEMENTARY

