

LEGACY

OF GRACE DEVOTIONAL
FEAR AND FATHERS

OCTOBER 25, 2020

GRACE
FELLOWSHIP

Discussion Starter #1: How do you think a person's relationship with their earthly father could affect their view of the heavenly Father?

Key Passage: "*Fear not, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.* ³³ *Sell your possessions, and give to the needy. Provide yourselves with moneybags that do not grow old, with a treasure in the heavens that does not fail, where no thief approaches and no moth destroys.* ³⁴ *For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*" (Luke 12:32-34)

Jesus gives us several words of comfort and assurance in this passage:

1. We are people of faith, not people of panic – "Fear not..." (v.32a).

In verse 32, Jesus teaches us several wonderful truths about our relationship as believers with God. And based upon these truths, Jesus assures us that we do not need to fear (v.32a). To be clear, the command to not fear does not remove our need to be cautious and wise in the world. The fear the Bible is referring to when it says, 'Fear not' is a legitimate concern that is mixed with anxiety or dread. The Bible tells us that "*God gave us a spirit not of fear [anxiety, dread] but of power and love and self-control*" (2 Timothy 1:7), so we are not to live in constant anxiety as people of panic; rather, we are to be people of faith and confidence in the Lord.

Discuss: What are some of the top fears people are facing today?

Discuss: How can faith in God overcome each of those fears?

Discuss: When has your faith in God given you victory over fear?

2. We are sheep in His flock – "...little flock..." (v.32b)

Jesus told us that He cares for us as a shepherd cares for his sheep (v.32b). First, as the Good Shepherd, Jesus laid down His life for His sheep (John 10:11). Second, Jesus' sheep know His voice and follow Him (John 10:11, 14). This is encouraging and comforting because, like sheep, we have a tendency to wander off from the shepherd and put ourselves in danger by getting lost (Isaiah 53:6) or making ourselves easy prey for Satan the roaring lion (1 Peter 5:8). Also, like sheep, we are totally dependent upon on Shepherd to protect and care for us. Shepherds in Bible times faced incredible dangers in caring for their sheep, often putting their own lives at risk by battling wild animals such as wolves and lions that threatened the flock. As our Good Shepherd, Jesus laid down His life for us. Only when we listen to and follow our Shepherd's voice can we be safe and free from worry and panic.

Discuss: In what ways have you experienced tender care from Jesus, our Shepherd?

3. We are children of our heavenly Father. "...it is your Father's good pleasure..." (v.32c)

The New Testament uses the phrase "child of God" or "children of God" numerous times. Many people wrongly believe that everyone is a child of God. While every human being is created and loved by God, we only become His children when we receive Him through faith in Jesus (John 1:12; Galatians 3:26). As children of God, we have access to the "*throne of grace*" through prayer at any time and from any place, and we have the promise that "*we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need*" (Hebrews 4:16). As children of God we trust our Father to supply all our needs "*according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus*" (Philippians 4:19). We are confident that the "*Father in heaven [will] give good gifts to those who ask him!*" (Matthew 7:11). As His children, we live for God on earth and eagerly await a future with Him in heaven (Philippians 1:21; Galatians 2:20) when we will worship Him as one, united as a family from "*every nation, tribe, and tongue*" (Revelation 7:9; 14:6).

Discuss: What is most meaningful to you personally about the Fatherhood of God?

4. We are beneficiaries of His generosity. "...to give you the kingdom..." (v.32d)

The word "*kingdom*" (v.32d) refers both to God's generosity in meeting our needs today, and also to God's promise to bless us in the future with our inheritance in Christ.

For today, God promises that He will bless us with "*all spiritual blessings*" (Eph. 1:3). Charles Stanley says, "God assumes full responsibility for our needs when we obey Him...God is able and eager to meet all of your needs... He also is able to satisfy the deepest desires of our hearts."

Discuss: How does the idea that God assumes full responsibility for your needs when you obey Him affect your view of God's love, care, and faithfulness toward you?

In the future, God promises he will give us the kingdom, a reference to the sum total of all God has promised us in salvation: I Peter 1:4 says we have been born again "*into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you.*" Peter is telling us that our inheritance is imperishable, unspoiled, unfading, and reserved in heaven for us!

Discuss: In what ways can God's promise to give you an imperishable, unspoiled, unfading, and reserved-in-heaven inheritance in Christ in heaven affect your worries about your needs today?

For Further Study

A Shepherd Looks at Psalm 23 by Phillip Keller

Overcoming Fear and Worry by H. Norman Wright

www.studylight.org - "Fatherhood of God" article