

Do Not Fear

The book of Lamentations is a compilation of five poems written by Jeremiah. The people were about to go away into captivity and Jeremiah is “lamenting” what is happening and why (unfaithfulness). Naturally, they were in fear as to what lay before them. In the midst of these poems, God simply says, “Do not fear.” That statement was designed to indicate that He was still in control.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt is remembered for his words, “The only we have to fear is fear itself.” We all face fearful situations. We may have a phobia (unnatural fear of something) or we may be facing a dangerous situation in which we are truly in danger. As children of God, we all face such fears, but do not need to allow this fear to overcome us and paralyze us. God has promised to be a present help in time of trouble (Psa. 46:1).

We all need encouragement. We remember the security that we felt in our father’s arms. Well, God is our Father and seeks to provide the same security, both now and in relation to the future. May we come to Him when in need at such times. He desires to help. May we avail ourselves of the comfort and security He desires to provide.

Outline: Do Not Fear

1. Remember what God has said regarding fear.
2. Jeremiah addresses fear that requires divine help (Psa. 23:4; Heb. 13:5-6)
3. We have been provided with numerous aspects of divine help (2 Pet. 1:2-4; Rom. 15:4; Psa. 55:1-5; Psa. 46:1-3; 2 Cor. 1:3-4; 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Jno. 4:16-18; Heb. 2:14-15; Eph. 1:3-6.
4. This assurance should motivate us to seek His help (Matt. 7:7-8; Heb. 4:16; 2 Thes. 1:6-9)

P.M. Sermon – Jonah

Jonah

I. The Proud Prophet – Jonah runs from God (Chap. 1)

- A. His arrogant pride is quickly evident and is a matter of sin. (1:3; 4:2)
- B. His departure (1:3; Psa. 139:7-10)
- C. God sent a storm (Matt. 12:40)

II. The Penitent Prophet – Jonah runs to God (Chap. 2)

- A. In this terrible time, Jonah turns to God (2:1-9).
- B. The fish “vomited” him back on dry ground.

III. The Powerful Prophet – Jonah runs with God (Chap. 3)

- A. God tells Jonah AGAIN what He demands (2 Tim. 4:2-4; 1 Pet. 4:11)
- B. Why is he seen as powerful here?

IV. The Pouting Prophet – Jonah runs ahead of God (Chap. 4)

- A. Jonah is angry at the repentance of Nineveh (vs.4; Jer. 18:7-10)
- B. So, he goes off and pouts (vs. 6-9)