

FEAR

INTRODUCTION:

1. Emotions characterize our personalities (Anger, etc.)
2. Scripture often regulates emotion--anger
3. Fear an interesting emotion (flying, heights, water)
4. Bible has some things to say about fear:
 - A. Rev. 21:8 "fearful will have part in lake of fire."
 - B. Prov. 28:14 "Happy is the man that feareth alway."
5. Contradiction? No!
6. Biblical examples of fear (Gen 3:10; Mt 14:30; Mt 26, Heb 5:7--Christ)
7. Different responses to fear

I. FEAR CAN CAUSE NON-ACTION (Num 13:1-2; 17-21; 25-33; 14:1-10)

- A. Israel afraid to enter promised land
 1. They had looked for deliverance (Ex. 13:5--Moses' promise)
 2. Land of milk and honey (imagine sadness now)
 3. God's power seen (plagues, parting of Red Sea, manna & quail, etc.)
- B. Mt. 25:14, 25 (Parable of talents [5,2,1]) vs. 30 "outer darkness"
- C. Illustration of playing "chicken" on railroad tracks
- D. NOTE result of Israel's fear: Num 14:26-27; 34-35

II. FEAR CAN CAUSE WRONG ACTION (Num 14: 39-45)

- A. Israel fears God's wrath--40 year decree
- B. Fear is driving force (they had seen God's wrath--golden calf, etc.)
- C. Israel defeated
- D. 2 Tim 4:7-11 (Paul's last letter, second imprisonment--Demas)
- E. Illustration of letter from school

III. FEAR CAN CAUSE RIGHTEOUS ACTION

- A. 2 Cor. 5:10-11 Paul--"knowing the terror of the Lord...."
- B. Heb 12:28-29 Fear God because He is a consuming fire
- C. Fear can bring about obedience!
- D. OBJECTION!! "Fear and love can't coexist! Only a primitive religion depends on fear for its following!"
- E. Fear and love coexist in earthly realm
 1. Illustration of cleaning garage on Saturday
 2. Fear more than love causes obedience to my father
 3. After maturing, love more than fear
- F. 1 John 4:18 "Perfect love casteth out fear." (perfect--mature, complete)
- E. Eccles 12:13 "Fear God AND keep His commandments"

CONCLUSION

- A. To Non-Christians
 1. Afraid to be a Christian?
 2. Afraid of commitment?
 3. Afraid of what others might think? Non-action & Wrong action!!
- B. To Christians
 1. Are you a fearful Christian?
 2. Afraid to tell others of Christ? Non-action & Wrong action!!

end

PAUL'S SERMON AT ANTIOCH

Intro: Many sermons were preached in the first century. Only a few are recorded for our benefit. So we can just imagine how good these are. Paul's sermon (Acts 13:16-41) before the synagogue in Antioch is a great example. I call it rebellion, rejection, regeneration, and release.

I) Rebellion - vs.17-21

- A) Although God had taken good care of them - v.17-20
- 1) Jehovah is a loving God - Jn 3:16
- 2) Jehovah is patient - 2 Pet 3:9
- B) But they wanted someone else to take care of them, a king - 1 Sam 8:5

II) Regeneration - vs.22-26

- A) Raised up a man after His own heart to be their king and to do His will
- 1) bringing the people back to God and life
- B) Raised up a Savior from David
- C) John preached baptism of repentance (return) - Mk 1:1-4

III) Rejection - vs.27-29

- A) Jews reject the salvation so graciously extended to them - 1 Pet 2:4,7
- B) Ignored the signs and prophecies - Mt 12:38
- C) Crucified an innocent man - Acts 2:36

IV) Restoration - vs.30-37

- A) Jesus by raising Him from the dead - 1 Cor 15:17-20
- B) Without decay, unlike David, and never to die again

V) Release - vs.38-41

- A) Forgiveness is proclaimed - Lk 24:47
- B) Freedom from sin - Jn 8:31,32; Rom 6:7,18
- C) Which the Law of Moses could not do - Rom 8:3

Concl: There is another rejection to notice - vs.46,47 - God rejects the Jews from being His people and has called the Gentiles - Mt 21:42