**December 23, 2012**

**Christmas Sunday
“Fear”**

**Q.** What are you afraid of?

Top 10

1. Death
2. Public speaking
3. Needles
4. Intimacy
5. Heights
6. Enclosed spaces
7. Spiders and insects
8. Germs
9. Snakes and other Reptiles

10. Thunder or lightning

Thought: Did you know that during Christmas people are afraid?

In ***Luke 1:30***, God sent an Angel with the message of good news to Mary. After his introduction to her he says: “Fear not.”

Vs. 30 – “Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favor with God.”

God will many times take us into the unknown in order for us to learn to trust him.

Mary was going to have to trust God through this whole process.

***2nd Matthew 1:20*** – The Angel talks to Joseph and tells him… “Don’t be afraid to take Mary home as your wife…”

Thought: Sometimes we fear the plans that God has laid out for us.

**Q.** Ever had your life torn apart?

 - Upside down
 - Upside sideways
 - Upside backwards
 - Upside upside

Learn the lesson of Joseph – he took the time to think through the situation at hand.

Learn this lesson well: Wait on God because he has your best in store. And when he tells you to do something…do it!

***3rd Luke 2:10*** – “…hey Shepherds, do not be afraid – I have some great news.”

These men never in their wildest dreams would have thought this would have happened to them.

By all rights, God should have never revealed his glory to anyone, especially to a group of Shepherds.

When a person comes face to face with the reality that there is a God and that he has sent his Son – to be the Savior of the world – that will bring fear to them.

Thought: There are still people today who fear the good news about Jesus.

* They fear he will condemn them
	+ They fear he will control them
* They fear that he might require their lives
	+ They fear he will not really give them true peace and forgiveness

Someone wrote once that there are three keys or ingredients to happiness.

* Fret not – He loves you (Jn. 13:1)
* Faint not – He holds you (Psa. 139:10)
* Fear not – He keeps you (Psa. 121:5)

**Q.** What is on your list of fears?

Today, lay your fears at Jesus’ feet and fear not.

* Jesus can help you to conquer all the fears that steal your joy and peace

On this Tuesday, Christmas day, hear once again what the Angel’s said:

*“Fear not, I’ve got great news for everyone…
Jesus has been born.”*