

## “Fear Not”

### I. Introduction

- A. Prior to healing Jairus’ daughter, Jesus stressed Jairus’ need for trust instead of fear. **Mark 5:36**
- B. While the *immediate* application of this teaching applied to a miracle Jesus performed for the ruler’s daughter, the principle He taught in this verse has greater implications. Fear can be a good thing if it is properly directed (**1 Pet. 2:17**), but when it is misdirected, it can hinder one from pleasing God. Consider some fears many are faced with that must be overcome.

### II. Needed Change

- A. Some are fearful of change, whether it be good change or bad.
- B. Scripture teaches us to *resist* change that would push us *away* from God. Yet, Scripture *urges* changes that draw us *closer* to God. Christians ought to persistently examine ourselves to see how we measure up to God’s standard for us. When things are found that indicate correction needs to be made, we should zealously pursue the needed change. **2 Corinthians 13:5**

### III. Being Different

- A. The more our lives are changed and molded into what God desires, the more different we will be from the majority. While some are fearful of being different, there’s actually a problem if there is *not* a stark contrast between our lives and that of the majority. **1 Peter 4:3-4; Matthew 7:13-14**

### IV. Rejection

- A. If we are different in ways that God desires, we are likely to face some rejection. Instead of fearing such rejection, we should seek *God’s* approval. **2 Timothy 4:16-17**
- B. The easy way out is to cower to whatever pleases man, but Jesus taught we must follow Him regardless of the reaction we receive from others. **John 9:22-23; Matthew 10:35-37**

### V. Persecution

- A. Rejection is a form of persecution. Fear of this and other forms of persecution can hinder us from pleasing God.
- B. Disobeying God for fear of persecution may avoid some *temporary* hardships, but it denies *eternal* life. **Matthew 10:28**
- C. As long as we are right with God, we need not fear persecution from others. Persecutions *will* come (**2 Tim. 3:12**), but God will be with us through them. **Hebrews 13:6**

### VI. Physical Death

- A. Christians in the first century often faced the severest form of persecution, dying a martyr’s death. At a time this was taking place, Jesus stressed the need to not fear, trusting His power to *raise* His followers to eternal life in heaven. **Revelation 1:17-18**
- B. Physical death in general is not something that we need to fear. While we do things to prolong our days on earth, we know that physical death will ultimately come to all, but comfort awaits the faithful. **Hebrews 2:15**

### VII. Conclusion

- A. Instead of allowing (misdirected) fear to come between us and God, we must overcome our fears and obey God at whatever the cost, trusting that as long as we do so, things will be OK. **Romans 8:28, 31; Mark 5:36**