

The Fear of the Lord

Main Scripture: Acts 4:32-37, 5:1-14

Additional Scriptures: 1st John 4:18, Philippians 2:12, Proverbs 1:7, 14:27, 8:13, Psalm 111:10, 145:1, 25:14, Exodus 1:8,11-21, Isaiah 11:2-3, Hebrews 1:8-9, Acts 9:31

Hearing: Discussion Questions

- “You will either fear God or fear man, but you will not fear both.” In what ways do you fear God? Where do you fear man in your life? At the end of the day, who do your actions say you really fear?
- “Don’t underestimate the power of the fear of man.” Answer these questions honestly about who you fear:
 - Are you more afraid of those who don’t know Jesus than Jesus Himself?
 - Are you more afraid of what your friends, family, or even someone like Pastor Mike thinks rather than what God thinks? Is this necessarily a bad thing if you end up doing the right thing in the situation because of a fear of P. Mike or some other person in your life?
 - What can you do to make Jesus be the one you truly fear?
- When you stop and think, who are the people you “fear” the most? Like Ruth, how does your perception change when you ask the question “Jesus, what do *you* think of me?” Is this an easy paradigm shift or no? What makes it hard?
- **Read Proverbs 8:13.** It is hard for us to hate certain things because they are not personal. But having a fear of the Lord means we hate the things that personally offend God. How do we start to genuinely take personal and to heart what is personal to God and what He hates?
- “If you’re following Jesus, you give up the right to be cool.” How has Christianity become cool? In what ways do you see “cool Christianity” in your life? How can you change that?
- **Read Psalm 25:14.** How does fearing God help you know and grow closer to Him?

Doing: Application

- Challenge your small group to really pray about who it is they really fear and how they can live their lives in a way that shows that they truly fear God. Talk about what the most common changes that they had to make were next week.