



What Are You Afraid Of?

June 6, 2021

Special Drive-In Service

Fear Defined: Phobos, to be terrified or deeply alarmed

My Testimony: I recently had a moment of surprising fear and intimidation

Text: Matthew 4:1-11

- Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. (NIV)

I. Three Ways To View Fear

1. **Reverential Fear** (Deuteronomy 6:13)
 - 13 Fear the Lord your God, serve him only and take your oaths in his name.
2. **Wise Fear** (Proverbs 22:3)
 - 3 The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.
3. **Damaging Fear** (1 John 4:16-18)
 - 16 God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 17 This is how love is made **complete (mature)** among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. 18 There is no fear in love. But **perfect love drives out fear**, because **fear has to do with punishment**. The one who fears is not made perfect in love.

II. Three Temptations Fear Brings to All of Us

1. Fear can tempt us to listen to **unwise counsel**
2. Fear can tempt us to take **foolish risk**
3. Fear can tempt us to **seek short-term status**

III. Three Questions About the Fears We Face (Matthew 4:1-11)

1. Are you tempted to listen to unwise council?

- 3 The tempter came to him and said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread."

The Best Solution: Listen to God's Voice

- 4 Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

2. Are you tempted to take foolish chances?

- 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 "If you are the Son of God," he said, "throw yourself down. For it is written: "'He will command his



angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.”

The Best Solution: Don't test God!

- 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

3. Are you tempted to focus on some short-term status?

- 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

The Best Solution: Think long-term and worship God

- 10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’” 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

Next Time: How to Understand the God We Love (Part 2)