God Is Breaking Chains of Fear 2 Sermon for 10-30-16

Last week, we learned that

* Fear is a by-product of sin.
* God’s solution to fear is Jesus.
* Belief in and acceptance of the perfect love of Jesus banishes the fear of punishment.
* This freedom causes
* **Emotional Transparency** because we are not afraid to speak truth
* **Loyalty** to brothers and sisters because we are not afraid of associating with other radical believers of the Gospel
* **Godliness** because we are not afraid of being rejected by the world because godliness makes us strange

This week we are going to see that fear causes us to rebel against God and take control of our own lives.

Idolatry.

**So if we are going to stop the idol worship, God’s love must cast out the fear.**

**Exodus 32:1-6** (NIV)

When the people saw that Moses was so long in coming down from the mountain, they gathered around Aaron and said, “Come, make us gods[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+32&version=NIV#fen-NIV-2440a)] who will go before us. As for this fellow Moses who brought us up out of Egypt, we don’t know what has happened to him.”

**2**Aaron answered them, “Take off the gold earrings that your wives, your sons and your daughters are wearing, and bring them to me.” **3**So all the people took off their earrings and brought them to Aaron. **4**He took what they handed him and made it into an idol cast in the shape of a calf, fashioning it with a tool. Then they said, “These are your gods,[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+32&version=NIV#fen-NIV-2443b)] Israel, who brought you up out of Egypt.”

**5**When Aaron saw this, he built an altar in front of the calf and announced, “Tomorrow there will be a festival to the Lord.” **6**So the next day the people rose early and sacrificed burnt offerings and presented fellowship offerings. Afterward they sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.

Look at what amazing things God had done for Israel *before* they made this idol…

* The ten plagues of Egypt: the Nile turning into blood, the toads, the gnats, the flies, the locusts, the boils, fire raining from the sky, and the death of all the firstborn of Egypt;
* Moses’s staff turning into a snake and back again;
* the parting of the Red Sea;
* God appearing as a pillar of smoke and fire that led them day and night;
* bitter water that was turned sweet;
* God appearing as a cloud on multiple occasions, with a voice like thunder;
* manna that appeared on the ground each morning, and
* water that came flowing from a rock.
* And 70 elders even got to meet God *in person!*

**Exodus 24:9-10**

Moses and Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, and the seventy elders of Israel went up and saw the God of Israel. Under his feet was something like a pavement made of lapis lazuli, as bright blue as the sky.

So why did the Israelites worship a golden calf? To answer that, let’s look at some life principles…

Life Principles

* **Fear is a choice of belief; when we allow fear to continue in our emotions, we choose to believe evil of God and that evil things are going to happen.**
* Faith is also a choice of belief; when we fight for faith to rule our emotions, we choose to believe good of God and that good things are going to happen.
* We were created to worship.
  + **If we do not choose to believe God, we automatically worship something or someone else.**
* The Israelites were afraid that God would not take care of them and that He had forgotten all about them.
  + Since the Israelites had decided that God was not trustworthy, the next natural course of action for them was to construct another god in which to place their trust and worship.

Since these principles still ring true for us today, fear still leads us to idolatry today.

# Ezekiel 14:3 (NKJV)

**3**“Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their hearts, and put before them that which causes them to stumble into iniquity. Should I let Myself be inquired of at all by them?

* **The idols of the heart are the most dangerous; they cause us to sin while remaining hidden until exposed by the Holy Spirit.**
* **The idols of the heart are idols of self.**
  + Self-reliance
  + Self-righteousness
  + Self-pity
  + Self-confidence
  + Self-sufficiency
  + Self-admiration

The Word of God clearly instructs us that we are to have no other gods before Him—especially the gods that we worship in our hearts.

Instead of giving in to fear and worshiping other gods, this is how a God-worshiper lives…

# Matthew 6:19-34 (NLT)

**19**“Don’t store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. **20**Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal. **21**Wherever your treasure is, there the desires of your heart will also be.

**22**“Your eye is like a lamp that provides light for your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body is filled with light. **23**But when your eye is unhealthy, your whole body is filled with darkness. And if the light you think you have is actually darkness, how deep that darkness is!

**24**“No one can serve two masters. For you will hate one and love the other; you will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and be enslaved to money.

**25**“That is why I tell you not to worry about everyday life—whether you have enough food and drink, or enough clothes to wear. Isn’t life more than food, and your body more than clothing? **26**Look at the birds. They don’t plant or harvest or store food in barns, for your heavenly Father feeds them. And aren’t you far more valuable to him than they are? **27**Can all your worries add a single moment to your life?

**28**“And why worry about your clothing? Look at the lilies of the field and how they grow. They don’t work or make their clothing, **29**yet Solomon in all his glory was not dressed as beautifully as they are. **30**And if God cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and thrown into the fire tomorrow, he will certainly care for you. Why do you have so little faith?

**31**“So don’t worry about these things, saying, ‘What will we eat? What will we drink? What will we wear?’ **32**These things dominate the thoughts of unbelievers, but your heavenly Father already knows all your needs. **33**Seek the Kingdom of God[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matt+6%3A19-34&version=NLT#fen-NLT-23292a)] above all else, and live righteously, and he will give you everything you need.

**34**“So don’t worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring its own worries. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

# Store your treasures in heaven

# Storing treasure in heaven is doing good works with your money instead of spending only on your pleasures.

# Having an unhealthy or evil eye means to be greedy or gluttonous.

# Greed and gluttony always fill us with darkness which is fear.

# Don’t worry

# God told us not to worry, so it is possible not to worry.

# Worry in itself is not sin, but left unchecked, it will lead to idolatry.

# Seek the Kingdom of God

# Seeking the Kingdom of God is changing your perspective and your pursuit.

# Instead of seeing things naturally, we see things in the light of the Bible’s teachings.

# Instead of pursuing earthly pleasures, we pursue the Holy Spirit.

# Live Righteously

# Live according to God’s divine order and He will be free to bless you with all spiritual blessings on top of His abundant provision.

# Order in the home

# Order in the finances

# Order in social interactions

# Moral order

Check yourself

* Is the majority of your time spent taking care of yourself and pursuing your own goals?
* Do you act like you believe that God will provide for you?
* Are you worrying about the everyday pressures of life?
* Are you submitting to the authority of God’s Word by living according to its rules?
* Do you listen to your own opinion more than the Bible?