

Welcome friends to another broadcast of “Morsels for Zion’s Poor”

David was a man who often found himself in places of real fear. I think of the numerous times when Saul had sworn to kill him and even mobilized his army to hunt him down. David did not look to his “inner man” for strength like the prophets of our day, who “*prophecy lies*”, counsel their followers to do. Rather, David’s antidote for his fear is found in Psalm 56:3; “*What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.*” Fear is the result of sin. If we had no sin there would be no fear. When Adam ate the fruit supplied by Eve, the first result of his eyes being opened to discern good and evil, was that he became afraid, because he knew himself to be a sinner. The man who recognizes the great divide that is made between him and the GOD of heaven and earth by his own, innate wickedness must of necessity fear and tremble in HIS presence. Job, in seeing the wickedness of his own heart and its contrast to the holiness of GOD said, “*Then would I speak, and not fear him; but it is not so with me.*” Dread and terror shall grip all men when they are brought face to face with the JUDGE of all the earth.

When David sought to bring the Ark of the Covenant back to Jerusalem and the LORD struck Uzzah dead in the process, we read that David was at first displeased with what the LORD had done but then his displeasure quickly turned to fear when he realized that he was the one who rightly should have been struck down. “*And David was afraid of the LORD that day, and said, How shall the ark of the LORD come to me?*” Who is there among the sons of GOD that has not been in the very same place? Fearing HIS judgment but unable to flee from it and shut up to doing anything but casting themselves upon HIS mercy. Even as Job said, “*Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him.*”

Fear is not a delightful experience, yet its presence in the lives of the children of GOD is a demonstration of the mercy of GOD towards them, as HE uses the opportunity of it to cause them to cry out to him for deliverance. The wicked are seldom troubled over their sin, believing it to be a mere inconvenience, and see not the sword of doom hanging precariously over their heads. Yet how often are the children of GOD reduced to fear because they have been given a tender heart to know that their just reward is destruction.

We do not read of an instance when the disciples became “fearful” while they enjoyed the LORD’s presence. Yet they were frightened when HE hid himself from them or was asleep in the boat as a storm arose which threatened their lives. This situation occurred according to the design of HIM who would teach HIS disciples to call upon HIM in times of trouble and to know that HE is near in the greatest of perils? HE taught them very plainly that it was necessary in the fulfilling of HIS purpose for HIM to go away from them. Yet HE made provision for them as HE said, “*for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*” We yet see through a glass darkly, yet HE who has not left us comfortless, does lift us up and allay our fears by the application of HIS word by HIS SPIRIT.

HE caused HIS disciples to be in the darkness. The LORD is the creator of both darkness and light. “*I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.*” All things are caused to work together for the benefit of those whom the LORD is pleased to call by HIS grace. Darkness serves HIS purpose in causing HIS people to recognize their own limitations and the lack of understanding and knowledge that they have of spiritual things. Here in the darkness on this stormy night HIS disciples were in much fear, even though HIS approach to the boat was the very deliverance which they stood in need of, yet they were affrighted by HIM.

HE caused a great storm to arise. The LORD designs the trials of HIS people even as surely as HE designs their deliverance from those trials. “*There hath no temptation (i.e. trial) taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.*” It is in the great troubles that beset the sons of GOD in this life that they are taught to trust the LORD. Paul said “*for when I am weak, then am I strong.*”

HE gave them the antidote for their fear. When HE said “*It is I, be not afraid.*” I can think of no greater comfort for these toiling and fearful sons of GOD than to hear their LORD and MASTER say “*It is I*”. The LORD said “*My sheep hear my voice.*” It is impossible that sinful men should comfort the sons of GOD, yet three words spoken by the SHEPHERD of the sheep is enough to remove all their fear. Can you hear HIM today?

“*Thy free grace alone,*” #11 **If you would like a free transcript of this broadcast email us at forthepoor@windstream.net**