

Review

- Fear has affected all of us
- When did this “Phobia” enter human experience?
- We must see Fear from both the negative & the positive perspective
 - Welch “Fear in the Biblical sense is a much broader word. It includes being afraid of someone, but it extends to holding someone in awe, being controlled or mastered by people, worshipping other people, putting your trust in people, or needing people.”

Welch characterizes fear into 3 categories:

1. **Shame Fear** already seen in Adam (Gen 3)
2. **Rejection Fear** Peter (Galatians 2: 11-13)
3. **Threat Fear** David (Ps 142: 1-7)
 - a. Note a biblical response to threat fear: Hezekiah, (2 Kings 18 – 19)

Looking @ Elijah from 1 Kings 17 – 19

How would you describe this character?

- Consider his life
- Consider his actions
- Consider his courage & it’s source
 - 17:1 “as the Lord Lives, before whom I stand”
 - 17:12
 - 18:10
 - 18:15

What happened to our character in 19:3&4 ?

Q: How did he loose his courage?

- Coming down from a “mountain top experience”
- Physical exhaustion
- Loneliness
- Knowledge of who his enemy was

Q: How was Elijah restored?

- Physical needs meet vs. 5-7 (no lecture)
- Got him out of the *cave* / (reminded him of who was really in command)
 - Vs. 11& 12 “the Lord was not in the strong wind, earthquake or fire”
 - Vs. 12 “a gentle blowing” made Elijah ashamed and he covered his face
- Set him straight on the *facts* (you’re not alone) 19:18
- Gave him a companion / friend 19:19-21

What does the world say about this human problem? (**Fearing others**)

- Lack self-esteem
- not **feeling good** about ourselves
- governed by the perceived opinions of others
- Concern that people will find out who we really are
 - Small, insignificant, dirty, stupid, unsuccessful.....
- Educational strategy, make every child feel good about himself
 - Scratches at the itch
 - Like a band aid on a cancer patient
 - If we can just get everyone to feel better about themselves, everything will be better

God's perspective

Welch: “those who struggle with low self esteem most likely are thinking too highly of themselves”.

The *masks* that we wear are made to convince others that we are indeed “special”

Underwear dreams

Bravado / braggadocio is a means of putting on our mask

Hebrews 4:12&13 we are all **naked** before the eyes of God

If we feel exposed to other people such that we go through all kinds of efforts to cover ourselves, what will happen when we realize where we stand with God?

Next time:

Ps 139