



Luke 8:22-25

“Holy Fear, Part 1”

Pastor Patrick Bowler

1-14-2024

Consult the Scriptures:

Luke 8:22-25

(Other Scripture referenced: Ps. 145:1-3, 36:1, 46:10; Is. 40:9-31; Rom. 11:33-36; Lk. 12:4-5, 8:1-21; Ex. 20:19-21; Gen. 1:1-3; Jn. 1:1; Eccl. 12:13-14; Heb. 10:31)

Consult the Scholars:

Matt Smethurst—

*“If God were only good, I would go to bed frightened. How could I worship someone who, bless his heart, means well and is doing his best? But I would also go to bed frightened if he were only sovereign. What assurance is there in knowing he’s mighty if he’s not merciful?” (Matt Smethurst, *The Gospel Coalition: Secret to Living in a Scary World*, Jan. 29, 2019)¹*

R. C. Sproul (Re: story of Jesus calming the storm)—

*“Why would the disciples invent a God whose holiness was more terrifying than the forces of nature that provoked them to invent a god in the first place? We can understand it if people invented an unholy god, a god who brought only comfort. But why a god more scary than the earthquake, flood, or disease? It is one thing to fall victim to the flood or to fall prey to cancer; it is another thing to fall into the hands of a living God.” (R. C. Sproul, *The Holiness of God* [Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc. 199]), p. 53.)*

¹ <https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/secret-living-well-scary-world/>

(Jerry Bridges) Three key ingredients to the fear of the LORD:

- (1) A correct understanding of who God truly is.
- (2) A pervasive awareness of His presence.
- (3) A constant acknowledgement of our obligation to Him.²

Discuss:

1. Read Ps. 145:1-3 and discuss the greatness of God. Pastor Patrick gave us three minutes to reflect on the greatness of God during the sermon on Sunday. Discuss the experience together.
2. What comes to mind when you hear “the fear of the LORD?” What has been your understanding of it and how was it affected (if at all) by this sermon?
3. Pastor Patrick contrasted the fear of the LORD with another fear (e.g. anxiety, worry, fear of man, etc.); what is the difference between the two?
4. Read Luke 8:22-25 and discuss. What stands out to you in this story? What is the questioned being posed by this text and why is it important? How does this question relate back to Jesus’ warning in Lk. 8:18?
5. Read Eccl. 12:13-14 and discuss. Solomon refers to the fear of the Lord as “*the end of the matter.*” What does that mean? Why is his conclusion so important?
6. See the above “three key ingredients to the fear of the LORD” and discuss. How might the fear of the LORD affect our worship, our conduct, and our understanding of the gospel and mission?
7. Oswald Chambers said, “*The remarkable thing about God is that when you fear God, you fear nothing else, whereas if you do not fear God, you fear everything else.*”³ What is Chambers saying? Do you agree or disagree?
8. What challenged you most about this week’s sermon? What new insights did you take away? What questions do you still have?

² Jerry Bridges, *The Practice of Godliness* [Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2008], p.13.

³ Cited by John Bevere, *The Awe of God* [Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 2023], p. 70.