

FEARS OF THE FLOCK

Beyond Our Fears

We Begin With A Hymn!

I love to tell the story, of unseen things above, Of Jesus and his glory, Of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, Because I know it's true; It satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

Refrain

*I love to tell the story; I'll
sing this theme in glory; And
tell the old, old story of Jesus
and his love.*

Christian: Rate Thyself!

When it comes to sharing
Jesus...sharing my faith with
others...telling others about Jesus...I
rate myself:

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Often/Eager

Cautious

Who? Me?

How About Your Congregation?

-Add/Divide/Average-

If you did this little exercise
in your home congregation,
would the average be higher
or lower?

Hymn #476/ LBW

*Have no fear, little flock;
Have no fear, little flock; For
the Father has chosen to
give you the kingdom; Have
no fear little flock.*

Hymn #738 in With One Voice

*Healer of our every ill, light
of each tomorrow, give us
peace beyond our fears,
and hope beyond our
sorrow.*

Transparency

What are the reasons for
how we rated ourselves?

Personal Sharing??????

In a word~~~~

FEAR!

FEAR

- Silences the Church
- Reduces our discipleship
- Hampers our disciple-making
- Minimizing the way we carry out our God-given mission

365 verses

I have not, personally, verified it, but I read that there are 365 Bible verses related to 'fear'.

One for each day?

FEAR

...is not an action we take.

Fear is a re-action to something or someone.

So...What Are We Afraid Of?

We are, likely, all familiar with The Shepherd's Psalm...the 23rd Psalm...Psalm 23...the 23rd chapter of the Book of Psalms...the psalm before Psalm 24 😊.

~Fears of the Flock~

- Not being in charge...by nature, innately, we want to be our own 'shepherd'...we want to be in charge and in control.
- The Psalmist wrote:
The Lord is my shepherd!

- I won't know what to say/do
- I feel inadequate and/or under-prepared~~~~
- The Psalmist wrote:
I shall not want!

- Facing or creating:
opposition...rejection...
confrontation
- *He prepared a table in the
presence of my
enemies...anoints my head*

- I'm the wrong person to be doing this...Certainly there are many others who would be better suited for this mission!
- The Shepherd '*maketh*', and '*leadeth*', and '*restoreth*'

- The Shepherd promises, even to the point of giving his life, to provide his sheep with~~~

Refreshment

Direction

Rest

Renewal

Purpose

Protection

Luther and The Lord's Prayer

- This is what we pray for in the phrase '**daily bread**'~~~~~
- Luther's Small Catechism: *Everything needed for this life. Such things as food and clothing, home and property, work and income, a devoted family, an orderly community, good government, favorable weather, peace and health, a good name, and true friends and neighbors.*

BEING ALONE/DYING

‘Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil...’

If we are not even afraid of being alone in death, why do we fear being left alone in life????

Seinfeld

Studies show that people are more afraid of speaking in public than of dying!

I guess that means they'd prefer to be the person in the casket than the person speaking at the funeral!

Two More Things

**Surely goodness and mercy shall
follow me all the days of my life...*

And I **will dwell in the house of
the Lord, forever.*

If we love Jesus, we share him
with others!

If we love others, we share
them with Jesus!

Experiment!

- Is there anyone in the room who knows two people who **LIKELY** do not know one another?
- Will this person, right now and in front of us, introduce the two people?

Consider

Now~~~~

- How hard was that?
- What prior training did that require?
- What was the risk?

Words From Bishop Bradosky

When it comes to our fears
about sharing Jesus with
others.....

Get over it and get on with
it!

I WILL FEAR NO EVIL...

*FOR THOU ART WITH
ME*

'I am with you' Bible verses

Marty Haugen's

SHEPHERD

ME,

O

GOD

Q and A

***If there is time for
either 😊