

PSALM 23

I Will Fear No Evil

Sermon-Based Study Guide
Good Shepherd Presbyterian Church

Psalm 23.4 | July 26, 2020

Prepared by Joshua Higgins
josh@gspc.org | 562/493.2553 x102

I. Introduction to this Study

Our summer series in Psalm 23 continues as we reflect on what it means to live a life ruled by faith instead of by fear.

II. Connecting with One Another

Read out loud this definition of **fear**: *an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat.*

synonyms: *terror, fright, fearfulness, horror, alarm, panic, agitation, trepidation, dread, consternation, dismay, distress*

How did it make you feel when you read that out loud?

Now try this. List, again out loud, all of the things you are afraid of or fearful of.

Was there a difference in how you felt when saying the definition of fear and listing the things you are fearful of? If so, why do you think that is?

III. Study the Text

a. Read John 15:4

b. When Jesus says "remains" or "abides", what do you think this really means?

c. Do you think it's possible to not remain or abide in God and still bear good fruit? Why or why not?

d. What causes you to hold back and not abide in God?

e. Read Genesis 2:8-25

a. Why were Adam and Eve not afraid and unashamed?

f. Read Genesis 3:2-24

a. What differences do you find? What changed in their lives?

b. Imagine yourself as Adam or Eve, what fears would you have had?

g. Think back on your list of things that you fear. Take a few moments to write down your top 3.

h. Read Psalm 23:4



- a. How big are your top 3 fears? Have you been avoiding them, or tackling them?
 - b. Now, imagine that you no longer be afraid about those things. What did it take for to no longer be afraid of them?
 - c. If God was to give you the resources to not be afraid of your top 3 anymore, what would those resources be?
- i. Read 2 Timothy 1:7
- a. Fear is outnumbered 3 to 1 in 2 Timothy—Power, Love and a Sound Mind
 - b. Power: Read Romans 8:11
 - i. The same life-giving spirit that raises Jesus from the dead dwells in you
 - ii. Where in your life do you need this life-giving power to conquer your fear?
 - c. Love: Read Romans 5:5
 - i. Where in your life do you need love poured into?
 - d. Sound Mind: Read 1 Corinthians 2:16
 - i. When a structure is defined as “sound,” that means it is firm, intact, and stable. A sound mind is one that is undivided. It is the opposite of being double-minded.
 - ii. Take some time to reflect where you may be “double-minded”. What beliefs or actions are you holding onto, even though they may be antithetical to following Jesus?

Pray

- a. Pray for power to live by faith rather than by fear. How can others in your group be supporting you in prayer?
- b. Ask God to show you where you need to experience His love and where you need to be more loving towards others.
- c. Give those “double-minded” areas of your life and ask God to help you grow into sound mind.

