

## 1 **The Bald Truth about FEAR**

- There are many things to fear; losing hair is not one of them!

## 2 **Middle-East Conference**

- Last weekend, we dealt with a serious topic when Joel Richardson was here to speak to our church about the Middle-East and Bible Prophecy.
- According to Joel and several others who study this subject matter, what is going on in the Middle-East could eventually be the fulfillment of Bible Prophecy.
- In other words, it appears to many that what we have with the “Arab Spring” is a situation where might see the re-emergence of the Islamic Empire, which will have as their number one goal—the destruction of Israel.
- The leader of this “mixed” Empire or Confederation will be the Antichrist who will make Jerusalem his capital and persecute both Jews and Christians who live under his regional control.

## 3 **Middle-East Conference**

- However, at the height of his rule, with Israel’s back to the wall, a rider on a white horse whose name is called Faithful and True will enter the scene.
- With the armies of heaven following him, with justice, he will judge and make war against the Antichrist.
- Out of his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. “He will rule them with an iron scepter.” He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS. (Rev 19:15–16 NIV)

## 4 **The Millennial Age**

- When Jesus sets up his rule, the Bible says,
  - He will judge between many peoples and will settle disputes for strong nations far and wide. They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore. (Mic 4:3 NIV)
  - “The days are coming,” declares the LORD, “when I will raise up to David a righteous Branch, a King who will reign wisely and do what is just and right in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety.” (Jer 23:5–6 NIV)
  - The wolf will live with the lamb, the leopard will lie down with the goat, the calf and the lion and the yearling together; and a little child will lead them. The cow will feed with the bear, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. (Is 11:6–7 NIV)

## 5 **The Millennial Age**

- Every man will sit under his own vine and under his own fig tree, and no one will make them afraid, for the LORD Almighty has spoken. (Mic 4:4 NIV)

- “Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; he who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere youth; he who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.” (Is 65:20 NIV)
- “They will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.” (Is 65:21 NIV)
- “No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. For as the days of a tree, so will be the days of my people; my chosen ones will long enjoy the works of their hands.” (Is 65:22 NIV)

## 6 **Doom & Gloom**

- Nevertheless, with this great hope, it is still easy to become fearful.
- Talking about the End-Times and the end of this age, doesn’t always produce excitement with people jumping up and down for joy.
- It can produce dread, apprehension, and fear.
- So I want to address this issue head-on and talk about another equally fearful situation that produces doom and gloom for half of our adult population and that is male pattern baldness.
- For some men who have this problem, it is the end-of-the-world.

## 7 **Baldness Support Group**

- John Capps, who people say could pass as a stunt-double for Mr. Clean, is the founder of Bald Headed Men of America.
- It is an organization whose 35,000 members have sprouted from 50 states and 39 countries.
- Every September they hold a convention in, where else? — Morehead City, North Carolina.
- The three-day event features clinics on bald-head care and awards for the Sexiest Bald Head, the Most Improved Bald Head, the Most Distinguished Bald Head and so on.

## 8 **Jesus and Hair**

- In the gospel of Harry, Jesus actually talks about hair, where he says, "A bald head is like heaven; there's no parting there!"
- Well not exactly, what he actually said was in the Gospel of Matthew, even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. (Matt 10:30 NIV)
- Granted, counting the hairs of some heads is a less time-consuming job than counting the hairs on some other heads.
- However, Jesus wasn’t trying to be funny.

- He was talking quite seriously about the reality that in this world as being His followers we would face trouble and persecution, but not to fear.

## 9 Sparrows and Hair

- Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from the will of your Father. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. (Matt 10:29–31 NIV)
- The point here is that if God cares for common little birds and knows so much about us that he knows the number of the hairs on our head, then why should we fear about anything?

## 10 God is in Control

- In this passage, Jesus tells his followers not to fear; in fact, he told them this three times (vv. 26, 28, 31).
  - They should not fear because God's purposes are revealed (vv. 26-27). (God is giving us a living hope and a kingdom to come, where this world of ours will be one day the home of righteousness.)
  - They should not fear because God has control of the future (v. 28).
  - And they should not fear because God also has control of the present as well (vv. 29-31).

## 11 Turning Fear Off?

- Being truthful, isn't "not fearing" more easily said than done?
- FDR famously declared, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," but who among us can turn fear off when it has us in its grip?
- And it matters not whether what we fear is terrorism, illness, bad things befalling our children or the collapse of our retirement savings.
- During the last recession, one of the call-in news shows had a woman on the line who said that the dive in the stock market and the beating her retirement funds had taken had her literally trembling with fear.

## 12 Fear & Trembling

- My heart is in anguish within me; the terrors of death assail me. Fear and trembling have beset me; horror has overwhelmed me. I said, "Oh, that I had the wings of a dove! I would fly away and be at rest." (Psa 55:4–6 NIV)
- I came to you in weakness and fear, and with much trembling. (1 Cor 2:3 NIV)
- The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, "I am trembling with fear." (Heb 12:21 NIV)
- "Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me." (Luke 22:42 NIV)

## 13 Fear Not

- Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Josh 1:9 NIV)

- . . . say to those with fearful hearts, “Be strong, do not fear; your God will come, he will come with vengeance; with divine retribution he will come to save you.” (Is 35:4 NIV)
- So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Is 41:10 NIV)
- For I am the LORD, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you. (Is 41:13 NIV)

#### 14 **Fear Not**

- The LORD is my light and my salvation — whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life — of whom shall I be afraid? When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall. (Psa 27:1–2 NIV)
- The LORD Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. (Psa 46:7 NIV)
- O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: “Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you. When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior; (Is 43:1–3 NIV)
- “Do not be afraid, for I am with you; I will bring your children from the east and gather you from the west.” (Is 43:5 NIV)
- “Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you and will rescue you,” declares the LORD. (Jer 1:8 NIV)

#### 15 **God’s Promise of Help**

- If you look at each of those verses, you’ll see that the reason for not fearing is simple. God has promised to be with us and help us in the midst of these circumstances.
- God has not promised to keep us from all trouble and hardship, but help in the midst of trouble.
- He can either deliver us from the problem, or give us wisdom on how to endure it until the trouble is over.
- However, what we don’t want to do is to freak out and give into fear, where we panic and do something stupid.

#### 16 **Sheep Among Wolves**

- When Jesus used sparrows and the hairs on our head as an illustration of God’s benevolence and goodness, the context is quite interesting.
- Jesus was sending his disciples out to preach in the towns and villages of Galilee.
- Jesus says, “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matt 10:16 NIV)

- Be on your guard against men (Matt 10:17 NIV), But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you. (Matt 10:19–20 NIV)
- So do not be afraid of them . . . (Matt 10:26 NIV), instead fear God!
- Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell. (Matt 10:28 NIV)

## 17 **The Long View**

- Jesus isn't saying that all we have to fear is fear itself, but rather to "fear that which is truly deadly for our souls."
- He's talking about what truly matters, and about the importance of taking the long view:
  - we shouldn't fear man or what man can do to us.
  - the worst that other people or troublesome circumstances can do to us is without comparison, if we lose our souls.
  - life and death is in God's hands and our relationship with him is what is truly important.

## 18 **Unavoidable Fear**

- We live day by day, and, from that vantage, there's a lot of scary stuff going on.
- We have worries about the economy, geopolitical concerns with Russia, and the dangers from terrorism.
- When confronted by a threat, who among us can sit back and say, "Oh well, whatever harm this situation can cause me, it cannot destroy my soul."
- Not many, we see the threat to our immediate circumstances, our fear is in the present tense and it's not always unreasonable.
- In fact, for most of us, fear of something is unavoidable. It's an involuntary response to threat.

## 19 **Irrational Fear**

- Fear can often paralyze us and cause us to panic and react in ways that make things worse. It can cause us not to think straight.
- Comedian Jerry Seinfeld refers to the irrational way we address our phobias:
- "According to most studies, people's number one fear is public speaking. Number two is death. Death is number two. Does that sound right? This means to the average person, if you go to a funeral, you're better off in the casket than doing the eulogy."

## 20 **Fearful Attitudes**

- Jesus' instructions to his disciples invite us to let a little heavenly light shine on our earthbound fears.

- This should help us to distinguish between being afraid and being fearful.
- We have little control over feelings; they simply are what they are.
- But we have choices about our attitudes and how we will live.
- Feeling afraid is a normal response to a perceived threat. But being fearful is an attitude toward life and our faith in God.

## 21 **Fear & Faith**

- Testimony from Pastor Dave.
- The angel of the LORD encamps around those who fear him, and he delivers them. (Psa 34:7 NIV)
- That very moment my irrational fear evaporated from me and I started down a road of letting my faith in God's goodness deal with my feelings.
- Not that I have total victory over all irrational fear, but I'm learning that God is bigger than my feelings or anxieties.

## 22 **Don't Panic**

- There is a story of a man who was the nose gunner on a B-17 airplane during WWII.
- On returning from a mission one day, the nose gunner saw that the runway was badly damaged and the plane was about to land in a deep ditch and would no doubt be heavily damaged.
- However, before he could warn the pilot, the nose gunner heard him praying—"God, don't let me panic, Oh God, don't let me panic."
- Somehow, the pilot managed to bounce the plane on the ground and into the air again, leaping the ditch.
- The gunner says that he has often thought of that prayer and prayed it himself in the years since. He prayed not for anything tangible, but just not to panic.

## 23 **Conclusion**

- We who are followers of Christ, ought also to remind ourselves that the things we fear are never the final word on our lives. Even, if we're experiencing Male Baldness.
- While we may find ourselves in scary situations or where trouble is all around us, God has promised never to leave us or forsake us.
- Jesus assures us that God, whose eye was on even the sparrow, who knows even the number of hairs on our heads, will not desert us.
- Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. . . . And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matt 28:18–20 NIV)

- Nothing can separate us from the love of God, not even fear itself, and not even the frightening things that actually might or might not happen to us.