

A Man & His Fear of Man

Key Verses

"Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe." – Proverbs 29:25

❖ Are You Seeking Man's Approval?

- The fear of man brings a snare...
- What is the fear of man?
 - The fear of man takes God people captive and has made many preachers, politicians, and parents in this country prisoner.
- Del Fehsenfeld, Jr. said, *"I believe the day has come that we need to ask God for Godly contempt for the approval of men and an insatiable appetite for the approval of God. And, until we get to that point in our lives-we will not know the power of God in our lives. We will be kept prisoner of what everybody else thinks and we will not know the joy that God intended for us as a Christian."*
- Spurgeon said, *"If we fear God we have nothing else to fear."*
- *"He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him"* **Psalm 145:19**

➤ The Snare of Insecurity

Snare – Imprison, hold captive, trap

- Insecurity is the result of placing my confidence or trust in people or things that can be taken away from me. For example, job titles, children, spouse, money, 401k..
- If you're motivated by the praise of men, you will be defeated by their criticism.
- Security is placing my confidence or trust in that which cannot be taken away from me. In God!
- Johnny Hunt, *"Insecurity can be quite natural in a leader. That doesn't make it something you can afford to put up with."*

➤ The Snare of Ignorance

- If doubt replaces awe, you will soon give up on all the Gospel disciplines of the Christian life
- Ignorance cause "lawlessness" which refers to the state of living apart from the law or will of God
- It as though God had no law or had never given His law to men. It is one of the most grievous consequences of an ignorance to God.
 - The more we reject the knowledge of God, the more unrestrained and immoral we become.
- Those who have no knowledge of God or His will run restrained in sin and act as self-appointed leaders apart from God.
 - *"In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes."* Judges 17:6

➤ The Snare of Idolatry

- Idolatry is putting what others think of me ahead of what God thinks of me.
- Idolatry occurs whenever we worship anything or anyone other than the living God.
- If you stop depending on God, you won't know when He's gone.
- We are our own barrier to experiencing fullness and freedom in Christ.

❖ Or, Are You Seeking God's Approval

"But whoever trusts in the Lord shall be safe."

Those who know Your name will put their trust in You, for You, O Lord, have not forsaken those who seek you."

— **Psalm 9:10**

(It's very hard to trust someone you don't know. We must know Jesus and keep turning our eyes up to Him!)

"Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth." **2 Timothy 2:15**

➤ Live as a Man Unleashed

- This man is looking to please God, not please man.
 - God can't love us any less or more. We can't affect this. But we can affect how well-pleased He is in us!
 - *"Do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ."* – **Galatians 1:10**
- He understands that his purpose is to be in and grow in intimate relationship with His creator first and foremost and then lead others to do the same! seek first God's Kingdom before his own.
 - This man has his eyes fixed on God striving to love Him first before all things with all his heart, mind, and soul!
 - *And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. **Matthew 22:37***
- He has figured out that when he seeks God's Kingdom that He does not need to worry about his life or if the Lord will provide. He is allowing God space to provide! We must keep our eyes fixed on God.
 - *"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*
Matthew 6:33

➤ Live as a Man Unhindered

- His eyes are not pulled away from the desires of the world. Desires, even good ones from God, can pull our eyes from Him! We must not allow desires, worries, or anything of our life captivate our attention more than our relationship with God!
 - *"Other seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it, and it yielded no grain."* **Mark 4:7**
 - *"And others are the ones sown among thorns. They are those who hear the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches and the desires for other things enter in and choke the word, and it proves unfruitful."* **Mark 4:18-19**
- When we live our lives as "yes men" we find ourselves in no man's land with God and those we are called to lead.

➤ Live as a Man Who Lives in Fear of the Lord

- "To fear God is to venerate Him. Venerate: to honor, respect, esteem, value, see in reverence, and to stand in awe of Him more than anything or anyone else." *John Bevere*
- To fear God is to fear walking without Him in anything you do knowing that walking without Him causes destruction and the desire to have Him completely in control of every facet of your life.
 - *"The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever."* **Psalm 19:9**
 - "Friendship with the Lord is reserved for those who fear Him. With them He shares His secrets."
Psalm 25:14
 - *"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction."* **Proverbs 1:7**
 - *Come, O children, listen to me; I will teach you the fear of the Lord. What man is there who desires life and loves many days, that he may see good? Keep your tongue from evil and your lips from speaking deceit. Turn away from evil and do good; seek peace and pursue it.* **Psalm 34:11-14**

❖ So, Are You Seeking Man's Approval or God's Approval?

- What answer would your words and actions that back up your words show others?
- SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO LOOK AT OUR FEARS AND SAY, "SHUT UP!"