

## SERMON NOTES

Christmas Eve Candlelight, December 24, 2022 – Pastor Kischnick

THEME: “Do Not Be Afraid!” TEXT: Matthew 1:18-25

INTRO. When 11, watching TV in P.J.’s – suddenly seven “Santas” at doors & windows! Scared us half to death! Dad welcomed them in. They want to know what we want for Christmas. Say, “Don’t be afraid.” Sure, ah-ha.

TEXT: Today, as world turned, the Faithful worshipped, celebrated, & rejoiced in hope, light, & promise brought by child born in mean circumstances, yet Savior of mankind. Why did He come? What does His coming say to us? What do we yet need to hear? “DO NOT BE AFRAID!” Yes!

### I. JOSHUA NEEDED TO HEAR IT!

ILLUST. FDR died. Harry Truman sworn in. Next day to reporters: “I felt as if the moon, stars, and all the planets had fallen on me.” Up to it?

A. Moses left big sandals to fill. Josh has doubts. God knows his mind.

B. “Be strong, be courageous...the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Assurance, confidence, promise.

1. Led Israel into “Promised Land” 2. Jericho, Ai, and others.

### II. NATIVITY JITTERS

A. Principal characters need to hear it:

1. Zachariah, Mary, Joseph, Shepherds: “Do not be afraid!”

NOTE: Four Gospels Jesus’s #1 imperative (command) is: “D.N.B.A.!”

B. Is that accident? Coincidence? No! Just what WE need to hear!

### III. BOY, DO WE NEED TO HEAR THOSE WORDS!

ILLUST. I am not afraid of heights, just falling! Not snakes/snake bite! Not death/dying! Not mice & rats...well, yes, I am afraid of those!

A. Humans have big brains: lots of imagination, speculation, worry...

B. There are lots of scary, terrifying things in this broken, sin-sick world.

C. Birth of Jesus breaks in upon us & announces: “Do not fear!” Why?

1. “I am with you.” – Joshua, Immanuel, Ascension

2. “I am one of you. I give myself for you. I save you. I love you.”

CLOSE: WWII-HMS Balfour, passenger ship – Gr.Brit. to NY – capt. worried.

Sees Admiral, asks advice. “Go straight to NY. No detours. Steady as you go.” 2<sup>nd</sup> day – smoke behind! Wireless call for help. Familiar voice: “Go straight ahead. Steady as you go.” Several more sightings. Finally, NY!

Several hours later: HMS Man-of-War, Bttlshp docks. On flying bridge stood the Admiral, waving, smiling. Had been just over horizon all along.

WE need not fear condemnation, sin, devil, death, circumstances. What I say is what Zech, Mary, Joe, & Shep. Heard, what Jesus said many times:

“DO NOT BE AFRAID for I the Lord will be with you wherever you go!”