

‘DON’T BE AFRAID, GOD CARES’

O.T. Readings: Gen 21: 8-21

N.T. Readings: Matthew 10: 24-31

- Fear – a powerful motivating force
- Unscrupulous political leaders have used the power of fear

1) Fear

- A certain fear dominating your life?
- “as sheep amongst wolves,” (16)
- ‘Do not be afraid of them’ (26)
- “I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves.” (Matthew 10:16)

1) Fear

- “None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.” (1 Cor 2:8)

1) Fear 2) Awe

- Here was a man who feared God so much that he never feared any man.
(John Knox)

a) There is a fear that drives hatred

b) There is a fear that drives love & devotion

1) Fear 2) Awe

- “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)

1) Fear 2) Awe

- We need a sense of Awe to be part of our approach to God Almighty; it's something which we have lost.
- **Holy Fear**