



# SERMON NOTES

# *UNAFRAID*

Week 2 (May 3): "Fear of the Other"  
*Psalm 27:1-5*

## I. Reacting to fear

- A. Many of us live with an underlying \_\_\_\_\_ that something is going to get us.
- B. Sometimes things we fear are things we learn \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. There is an appropriate time for fear, but we have problems \_\_\_\_\_ those times.
- D. In our moments of fear, the things we choose to do are never the most \_\_\_\_\_.

## II. Dealing with our fear

- A. Cognitive restructuring is a process of learning to identify faulty assumptions or thought patterns and \_\_\_\_\_ them with clearer thinking and better information.
- B. Scripture reminds us that God is walking with us all the time and we don't have to be \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. Using a technique like Lectio Divina moves scripture from your head to your \_\_\_\_\_.
- D. As you \_\_\_\_\_ and bless people, it's hard to be afraid of them.

### *Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message*

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# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

As humans, we tend to fear those who are different from ourselves. The differences can make us a bit uncomfortable, and that discomfort fueled by our imagination, our perception of the world, our culture and upbringing, the media, religious leaders and politicians, can lead us to be afraid. So how can we overcome the fear of others and see people as God sees them.

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### Monday: Psalm 27:1-5

Israelites who prayed and sang this psalm saw Babylon destroy Jerusalem, saw Rome overpower their land—yet they still trusted. Christians saw Jesus crucified, the apostles Paul and Peter martyred by Rome, prayed the psalm in dim Roman catacombs—yet they still trusted. What difficulties test your trust, and seek to make you afraid? How can you trust that in the end God will always keep the promise to set you up high, safe on a rock?

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### Tuesday: Leviticus 19:33-34, Deuteronomy 10:14-19

God told Israel to remember their history as poor immigrants when they were a settled people into whose land others might immigrate. What does this suggest about how God sees people of all nations and races? As God's follower, how can you live out that same spirit in your attitudes and actions today?

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### Wednesday: Matthew 5:43-48

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. preached his last Christmas Eve sermon on December 24, 1967. It included these words: "Agape is an overflowing love which seeks nothing in return.... This is what Jesus meant when he said, 'Love your enemies.'" How can you more and more live into the God-given spirit of agape toward whatever frightening people and forces you face, big or small?

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### Thursday: Luke 9:51-56, John 4:4-10

In Luke 9, the Samaritan villagers were rude and unwelcoming. James and John reacted as we are often tempted to. "Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to consume them?" they asked. But Jesus said no. Have you ever been in a position either to fan the flames of hatred higher, or to lower the temperature and move toward peace? Which course did you choose?

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### Friday: Acts 8:5, 25; 10:9-28

Even after his vision came three times, Peter didn't fully get the point. Verses 27-28 of the story suggest that meeting a large group of Gentiles eager to hear the gospel was his "aha!" moment. Have you ever had a particular contact or experience that broke through some prejudice of yours, and opened your eyes to God's inclusive mission in the world?

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## MOVING FORWARD

One strategy for overcoming fear of the other is to remember that God is your companion, your strength, your stronghold, your light, of whom shall you be afraid. Another strategy to overcome the fear of the other is to live out the teachings of Jesus and love our neighbor as ourselves. Perfect love casts out fears.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) fear, B) culturally, C) discerning, D) admirable. IIA) replace, IIB) afraid, C) heart, D) love.*