

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

August 24, 2019

## **I Was Afraid!**

My first child was five months old when the doctors gave the report. The surgery would require removing his skull from the soft spot down to his eyebrows and all the way to each temple on the sides of his head. If I did not allow the surgery, the consequences would be horrible. The doctors said without the surgery things would only get worse and was impossible for anything to get better. God had so recently given a miracle for my wife to conceive this child, but now we were facing this life altering situation. I was afraid of what might happen if I did not allow the surgery to be done, but I was also afraid of what would happen if I did allow it. This “fear” was not panic or torment. Neither was it the fear of the Day of Judgment that John speaks of. <sup>1</sup>John 4:17-18. My fear was the understanding that either course I took could have unbearable consequences.

I did not believe I had great faith at all in that hour. I could not say, “I know God will give a miracle.” The only thing I could do was pray and seek God. At times I would take my son to the church alone to walk with him in my arms and seek God for an answer. When asked what we were going to do, I would simply say “I do not know.” Then one day in the middle of a Sunday morning service, God spoke three words to my heart: “It’s all right!” We canceled the surgery,

and soon it became evident that the “impossible” was happening, and my child would be perfectly whole. God had heard my cry, even though I was afraid!

I know it shatters our theology, but the Bible is clear that there was an occasion when Jesus was afraid. Speaking of this, the apostle wrote, “*Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and **was heard in that he feared;***” Hebrews 5:7. This passage is referring to Jesus in Gethsemane the night before his crucifixion. There he prayed and “*his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground.*”

Luke 22:44.

Peter, James, and John were present when Jesus “*...began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, **My soul is exceeding sorrowful** unto death: tarry ye here, and watch.*”

Mark 14:33-34. I am certain they had never seen Jesus like this before. Just a week before this, although troubled about what was ahead, Jesus spoke boldly concerning his death. He had told them, “*Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*” John 12:27. Now his words seemed different as he prayed, “*O my Father, if it be possible, **let this cup pass from me...***” Matthew

26:39.

Jesus knew the agony that awaited him in just a few hours. The prophets had already foretold his sufferings. His “*visage*” would be “*marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men:*” Isaiah 52:14. He would be “*...brought as a lamb to the slaughter...*” Isaiah 53:7. The Psalms

spoke prophetically of Christ, saying, they *"...plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows."* Psalms 129:3.

Jesus also knew David was speaking of him when he said, *"They gaped upon me with their mouths, as a ravening and a roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted in the midst of my bowels. My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. I may tell all my bones: they look and stare upon me. They part my garments among them, and cast lots upon my vesture."* Psalms 22:13-18.

It was never in doubt that Jesus would choose to go to the cross. He prayed, *"O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done."* Matthew 26:42. Jesus was not in a panic. He was not ready to run away. But he was in great apprehension about the agony that was just a few hours away. He said, *"The spirit truly is ready, but the flesh is weak."* Mark 14:38. We sometimes forget that although he is the Son of God, he is also the son of man. **Jesus had no sin, but he did have feeling!** In the hour of his "fear," he did the one thing that every person should take notice of. He called upon the one who *"...was able to save him from death..."* Hebrews 5:7.

I have seen many people attempt to deny their "fears" so they can have "faith." Such a course almost always ends in confusion. Faith in God is revealed more by what you do when you are "afraid" than it is when you are full of confidence.

In his hour of fear and apprehension, Jesus called upon the Father who sent an angel to strengthen him. Luke 22:43. It is based on such truths as this that the apostle writes, *“For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”* Hebrews 4:15-16. Jesus Christ understands the feeling of your infirmity ...and he can be touched by you. You can call upon him today!