**PERSONAL NOTES**

**FEAR NOT**

**PART 4: FEAR OF CHANGE**

Christmas Weekend

OPEN

1. Today we are going to talk about a very important subject in all of our lives.
2. The Fear of Change!
3. We tend to be creatures of habit.
4. “We’ve always done it this way.”
5. We follow the same routines and habits in life
6. For thousands of years many things did not improve or advance in culture. Change was limited.
7. Look at the past 100-150 years of the changes in medicine, technology
   1. EX: Old Cell Phone
   2. First cell phone – we shared 100 minutes a month.
8. Today as we look into our Christmas story once again we see that it is filled with CHANGES!
9. And there are always CHALLENGES that come with CHANGE

CHANGE (in our lives) . . .

1. **Can be confusing.**
   1. Mary – told that a virgin is going to have a baby???
   2. How can this be???? Confusing
   3. This isn’t what I expected.
   4. Jesus told the disciples he must leave, die, three days rise again. How can this be?
   5. 23 years in youth ministry
   6. Must be careful to recognize – is it a **dead end or a detour???**
   7. We assume our will is HIS will.
   8. When things don’t go as planned we assume God has abandoned us.
   9. We WANT TO stop, quit, give up, and sit down EX: Closed Door

**Signs & Fleeces // GOD OPEN A DOOR / CLOSE IT IF ITS NOT YOU**

**\*\*\*\* SOUND EFFECT OF SLAMMING DOOR**

**Judges 6 READ**

* 1. Israel – under attack Midianites
  2. Prophet – speaks (7-10)
  3. Angel of the Lord appears (11)
  4. v. 11 The angel of the Lord appears. Gideon questions what God said, “Why has this happened? Where are his wonders? How can I save Israel?
  5. v. 16 I will be with you!
  6. v. 17 Give me a sign! **“Here’s your sign”**
  7. Go in the strength you have - “Am I not Sending YOU?”
  8. Meat and Bread – Broth - consumed by the Fire
  9. Places a fleece of wool – wool wet and dry ground – I will know that you will save Israel.
  10. Do not be angry – one more test – wool dry – ground wet

**GOD NO LONGER LEADS HIS PEOPLE THIS WAY!**

**John 16:13-15** But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. 14 He will bring glory to me by taking from what is mine and making it known to you. 15 All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.

**John 10:27 My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. NIV**

1. **Change can be awkward.**
2. If it wasn’t awkward – its probably not change.
3. Joseph is engaged and his fiancé shows up pregnant??
4. Things don’t go the way Joe had planned.
5. “Hey Joe – Your boy Jesus sure doesn’t look a thing like you.”
6. EX: CHANGE Feels like taking a shower with your socks on.
7. **Change can be challenging.**
8. Joseph is to take Mary as his wife, SKIP the big wedding.
9. AND didn’t consummate the marriage until after the baby is born. CHALLENGE!
10. We generally envision the easiest path.
11. When the path becomes challenging we ponder if we missed it.
12. **Change can be uncomfortable.**
13. Time of the census – all must return to their home town.
14. Ugh – Mary is nine months pregnant.
15. Made their reservations at the Holiday Inn.
16. Sold out.
17. I’m going to have this baby in a barn???
18. Uncomfortable is a part of the change God is calling you to. Get out of COMFORT ZONES!
19. EX: Eagle’s nest – older the birds – removes more feathers from the nest –
20. God wants you to soar in LIFE!
21. **Change can be painful.**
22. After the Magi bring their gifts, KING HEROD
23. Angel warns Joseph in the night.
24. Life and death situations
25. Change is inconvenient.

Matthew 2

**7**Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. **8**He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and make a careful search for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

**9**After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen in the east**[e]** went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. **10**When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. **11**On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. **12**And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

**The Escape to Egypt**

**13**When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.”

**14**So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, **15**where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.”**[f]**

**16**When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi.

1. Plano/ TULSA transition

* 1994 - Resign with integrity – Plano – several months notice
* Pastor sets a date. What???
* No JOB!! Didn’t whine / bicker / murmur
* Job I wanted falls through – YP at New Life
* PEACE – South Texas – Houston took the job!
* Dallas House / rent house / building a house
* Pastor Gerald – Tulsa – “This is where you are supposed to be.”
* YP & Bible College instructor
* THREE HOUSES

**James 1: 2**Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, **3**because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.

**MSG**Consider it a sheer gift, friends, when tests and challenges come at you from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors. So don’t try to get out of anything prematurely. Let it do its work so you become mature and well-developed, not deficient in any way.

This is an opportunity for growth or an obstacle to stop me.

1. **Change can be the greatest thing that ever happened to us.**
2. Change is good!
3. Changing your socks or underwear – Thank God

* **Godly change always leads to blessing, advancement, growth, and abundance.**
* **God brings change in our lives to help us reach our full potential and destiny.**

**WHAT CHANGE IS GOD ASKING YOU TO MAKE THAT YOU HAVE PUT OFF OR AVOIDED???**

1. Career?
2. Education?
3. Marriage?
4. Personal habits or disciplines?
5. Spiritual walk?
6. Family? More time with the kids?

TRUST THE PROCESS --- GO WITH IT --- ALLOW GOD TO DO HIS WORK!

**WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN CHANGE HAPPENS**

1. **Trust God and follow His Holy Spirit!**
2. **Psalms 32:8** I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye. NKJV
3. **John 14:26-27** But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. 27 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. NIV
4. Insecurity is the result of not being confident of what you put your security “IN”
5. **Handle it with courage and integrity.**
6. Stick to your values and morals.
7. **Matthew 1:19** Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly.
8. “They did me wrong – I’m going to get them back.”
9. Don’t take a short cut or easy way out.
10. EX: Our move to Tulsa

* We have three houses – feel like we are supposed to go!!!! But I have only been at the new job for four months!!
* My pastor asked – Leaving? (INTEGRITY) “Nope – I made a commitment here.”
* 2 weeks later – “I can’t get it out of my heart – you’re supposed to go to Tulsa – I Release you to go to Tulsa.
* Change – lost all we had
* ALL equity in our Dallas home and took a hit on it.
* Gave the builder – keep the $5000
* Took a reduction in salary
* Started from scratch!
* BUT – IT WAS THE BEST CHANGE, RIGHT CHANGE.
* Many don’t know my previous life
  + National Influence
  + Trained over 700 youth pastors
  + H20 sermon source
  + Family First conferences

1. INTEGRITY: Joseph took Mary as his wife and parented Jesus as his own boy! He took the heat, jesting, mocking, embarrassment.
2. Blended families – here’s your sign unto you!
3. **Embrace the new journey!**

Run the race that is set before you

EX: Lot’s WIFE – don’t look back!

1. Mary has to deliver this baby.
   1. **Hebrews 12:1-3** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. NIV
   2. Jesus never changes. He is consistent.
   3. **Hebrews 13:8** says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”
2. A detour is not always a dead end. Another opportunity for God to work.
3. Embrace the change, the bump, or the detour.
4. EX: Going to Egypt – Saved their life. Stick to your plan and die, or follow God and live!
5. Be quick to obey the leading of God.

THE GOAL OF DERAILED PLANS

1. To stop you from pursuing and following God’s plan.
2. Convince you that you are on your own and God has forsaken you.

WHAT TO DO WHEN THINGS DON’T GO AS PLANNED

TWEET – If you invested as much time at work as you gave to your relationship with God each week

Wife

If you invested the same amount of time in your

Our move to Tulsa

Formation of our family

“Do a new thing” Scripture

Christmas Eve

God with us – Emmanuel

God with us

Shadrack . . . . Fire

Never leave you nor forsake you.