

# DO NOT BE AFRAID, MARY

Luke 1:26-38

Fear is not always a bad thing – it helps us to \_\_\_\_\_

God is not the \_\_\_\_\_

He is \_\_\_\_\_ us to Him

God is not out to \_\_\_\_\_ you, He is out to \_\_\_\_\_ you

READ. REFLECT. RESPOND. REMEMBER.

Certainly one of the undercurrents of this year is fear. More than just a slogan for the sale of t-shirts, to have No Fear of the angelic being who speaks to Mary is to have no fear of the one who that angel is speaking on behalf of. This week, the traditional theme has been love. And the intersection of love and fear is something that Scripture will talk about with some frequency. I will (probably) say something about 1 John 4 in my sermon today, and that is a good place to start to grasp the significance of what is happening in Luke as well. Read 1 John 4.

Reflect:

1 John 4, and Luke 1 for that matter, are heavily interested in the *incarnation* of Jesus.

What does it mean to be born of God?

How is the life of Jesus your life?

How, in particular, is that made known through love?

Respond:

Love God, love your brother or sister. In a time (like many times) where we are tempted to hatred or fear, how will you love today?

Remember:

“And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.” 1 Jn 4:16