



is a weekly ministry of
Orange Coast Church



Pastor Ken Studer

Sunday, August 5, 2007

Scripture Reading: Luke 12:13-21

TODAY'S THOUGHT: We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when people are afraid of the light.

Two explorers were on a jungle safari when suddenly a ferocious lion jumped in front of them. "Keep calm," the first explorer whispered. "Remember what we read in that book on wild animals? If you stand perfectly still and look the lion in the eye, he will turn and run." "Sure," replied his companion. "You've read the book, and I've read the book. But has the lion read the book?"

Fear. Can you remember the last time you were afraid? Perhaps it was before a visit to the doctor. Perhaps it was anxiety about your children. There are many possible circumstances that can provoke fear.

That's not necessarily bad. J. Hudson Taylor, the great missionary to China, once said, "Fear is the mother of foresight." Fear can be instructive and helpful. It can cause us to take prudent steps to remove the cause of the fear. But fear can also be paralyzing. Sometimes we can be so afraid, we can't do anything.

God speaks to us when we are afraid. When God's love floods our souls, we cannot be afraid. "Perfect love casts out fear," says the Bible. What does that mean? It means that if we're truly convinced of God's love, if we believe that our lives are in God's hands, then of what can we be afraid?

The apostle Paul put it this way: "If God is for us, who is against us? ... I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 8:31, 38-39). And that's good news!

Prayer: Almighty God, thank You for Your abundant and unceasing love! I have no need to fear! Amen.

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