

**December 21, 2025****Fear Not: Jesus, The Savior Who Brings Joy**

**SUMMARY:** I opened with a simple equation: we keep adding up lights, carols, sweaters, and “holiday spirit,” but we forget the other side of Christmas—the result. Luke 2 puts it plainly: “Fear not... good news... great joy... for all people.” That’s the outcome. The cause—the other side of the equation—is a person: “Unto you is born... a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.” When we give our attention to the result but ignore the source, we end up with short bursts of cheer and long shadows of fear. So I asked us to look squarely at our fears—financial, relational, health, and the biggest of all, death—and to let the angel’s words do their work. We live on a steady diet of bad news, and our souls weren’t built to carry the world’s pain. The problem isn’t just smartphones; it’s what we feed on. English-speaking media often monetizes anxiety, turning ordinary worries into catastrophic identities. The result is the “worried well”—exhausted, medicated, self-diagnosed, and still empty. But the gospel gives a different diet: Fear not. Good news. Great joy. For all people. Why? Because Jesus is a Savior. Not a coach. Not a content creator. A Savior. Self-salvation never answers the question “what is enough?” Our hearts are wired to demand more (the old “covenant of works”), and even our best moments come up short. Oskar Schindler saved over a thousand lives and still felt the ache: “I could have saved one more.” That ache is exactly why we need Jesus. He saves us from sin and the sentence of death; He delivers what our discipline can’t. And when death loses its power, fear loses its grip. John Harper on the Titanic shows that—he gave away his life jacket because he had a better Life already secured. Joy, then, isn’t pretend happiness or a grin glued on hard days. Joy is a byproduct of being with Jesus and seeing His kingdom break in—sick healed, captives freed, good news landing on the “wrong” people. Walk with Him, practice gratitude, keep reading Luke, and joy will surprise you. And this gift is for all people. Scripture is full of flawed names—murderers, liars, runners, doubters—turned into sons and daughters. No one is “too bad” for Jesus; the only people He can’t help are the ones who don’t think they need saving. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

**SCRIPTURE:** Luke 2:8-10

**APPLICATION QUESTIONS:**

1. Name two specific fears from the pastor’s list (financial, relational, health, death, etc.) that you personally wrestle with. For each fear, write one immediate, gospel-shaped response you can take this week that trusts Jesus as Savior (for example: a prayer, a confession, a phone call, a small act of faith).
2. Pastor Matt encouraged curating your soul’s news diet. Choose one concrete change you will make this week to protect your soul (examples: unfollow 3 anxiety-making accounts, set phone-free hours, replace 15 minutes of scrolling with 10 minutes of Luke). When and how will you do it?
3. Where do you live by a “covenant of works” in your life—trying to earn acceptance, peace, or worth by performance? Pick one area (parenting, marriage, work, church service, personal holiness) and name a specific practice this week to stop striving and receive Jesus’ finished work (examples: pray “I can’t save myself” and ask for grace, confess to a friend, let go of one performance goal).



4. Pastor Matt said joy is a byproduct of following Jesus and noticing kingdom inbreakings. For the next seven days, choose a simple gratitude practice (examples: morning list of 3 gifts, a nightly “one good thing” text to a friend, keep a one-line journal). Commit to it now and say when you will do it.
5. The sermon called followers to risk love and generosity once death’s power is broken. Identify one act of generosity or witness you could do this month that might look foolish to self-preservation (examples: pay an unexpected bill for someone, give away a planned purchase, invite a non-Christian to a meal and share your story). What will you do and when?
6. Is there someone in your life who seems to think they don’t need saving? Write a short opening sentence you could use this week (based on Romans 10:9) to start a gospel conversation with them. Who will you speak to and when?
7. Personal check: Have you believed on the Lord Jesus Christ as Savior? If your answer is “yes,” share one change you have seen in your fear or joy recently. If your answer is “no” or “not sure,” what is the next step you will take this week (talk with a Christian friend, read the Gospel of Luke, pray to ask Jesus to save you)?