

The “Fear Nots” of Christmas

In the Christmas narratives, there are several “fear not’s.”

The “fear not” of unanswered prayer: “Fear not, Zacharias: for thy prayer is heard; and thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son, and thou shalt call his name John” (Luke 1:13).

The “fear not” of immediate obedience: “Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife. ... Then Joseph ... did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him” (Matthew 1:20,24)

The “fear not” of the humanly impossible: “Fear not, Mary, ... the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: ... For with God nothing shall be impossible” (Luke 1:30, 35, 37).

The “fear not” of salvation: “And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings...which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:10,11).