

Fear Not
“Overcoming Fear of Failure”
Matthew 2:1-12
December 30, 2018 / Pastor Shawn

1. Fear of failure keeps us from obeying God.

1 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem
Matthew 2:1

3 “FAILURE” REMINDERS

- **YOU WILL FAIL.**
- **ALLOW YOURSELF TO FEEL THE DISAPPOINTMENT, BUT NOT THE DISAPPROVAL.**
- **FAILURE IS AN EVENT — NEVER A PERSON.**

2. God’s purpose is often different than our plans

² and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.” ³ When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴ When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵ “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶ “But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.”

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 search carefully 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 when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was.
Matthew 2:2-9

3. God’s Responsibility is outcome.

My Responsibility is obedience.

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, frankincense and myrrh. ¹² And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

Matthew 2:10-12

Greatest fear: Failure.

Greatest pain: _____.

What is God asking you to Do or Believe?

What’s your Response?

Discussion Questions

- 1.** What was your “A-Ha” from Sunday’s message? Why?
- 2.** How has fear kept you from attempting or trying something?
- 3.** What fear(s) would the Magi have to overcome to make the trip from the east and to accomplish their mission?
- 4.** What might have each of the gifts the Magi presented represented? What is the significance?
- 5.** How have you experienced the truth that God’s purpose is different than your plans?
- 6.** What is God asking you to do or believe?
- 7.** What first step of obedience will you take to accomplish what God is asking you to do?

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