

## **Enemies of Christmas: Fear**

*“Don’t be afraid,” the prophet answered. “Those who are with us are more than those who are with them.”*

*2 Kings 6:16 (NIV)*

*When the servant of the man of God got up and went out early the next morning, an army with horses and chariots had surrounded the city. “Oh no, my lord! What shall we do?” the servant asked.*

*2 Kings 6:15 (NIV)*

*And Elisha prayed, “Open his eyes, Lord, so that he may see.” Then the Lord opened the servant’s eyes, and he looked and saw the hills full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*

*2 Kings 6:17 (NIV)*

*Even though I walk  
through the darkest valley,  
I will fear no evil,  
for you are with me;  
Psalm 23:4 (NIV)*

*So we say with confidence,  
“The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid.  
What can mere mortals do to me?”  
Hebrews 13:6 (NIV)*

*“Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last.  
Revelation 1:6 (NIV)*

*This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.*

*1 John 4:9-10 (NIV)*

*There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear...*

*1 John 4:18 (NIV)*

*Then the Lord said to Jacob, “Return to the land of your father and grandfather and to your relatives there, and I will be with you.”*

*Genesis 31:3 (NIV)*

*What do you mean by deceiving me like this?” Laban demanded. “How dare you drag my daughters away like prisoners of war?<sup>27</sup> Why did you slip away secretly? Why did you deceive me? And why didn’t you say you wanted to leave? I would have given you a farewell feast, with singing and music, accompanied by tambourines and harps. <sup>28</sup> Why didn’t you let me kiss my daughters and grandchildren and tell them good-bye? You have acted very foolishly!*

*Genesis 31:26-28 (NLT)*

“I rushed away because I was afraid,” Jacob answered. “I thought you would take your daughters from me by force.  
Genesis 31:31 (NLT)

*After delivering the message, the messengers returned to Jacob and reported, “We met your brother, Esau, and he is already on his way to meet you—with an army of 400 men!”<sup>7</sup> Jacob was terrified at the news. He divided his household, along with the flocks and herds and camels, into two groups. <sup>8</sup> He thought, “If Esau meets one group and attacks it, perhaps the other group can escape.”  
Genesis 32:6-8 (NLT)*

*O Lord, please rescue me from the hand of my brother, Esau. I am afraid that he is coming to attack me, along with my wives and children.  
Genesis 32:11(NLT)*

*Then Jacob looked up and saw Esau coming with his 400 men. So he divided the children among Leah, Rachel, and his two servant wives.<sup>2</sup> He put the servant wives and their children at the front, Leah and her children next, and Rachel and Joseph last. <sup>3</sup> Then Jacob went on ahead. As he approached his brother, he bowed to the ground seven times before him.<sup>4</sup> Then Esau ran to meet him and embraced him, threw his arms around his neck, and kissed him. And they both wept.  
Genesis 33:1-4 (NLT)*

SOME THINGS WE CAN LEARN FROM THIS STORY:

! FEAR AMPLIFIES \_\_\_\_\_.

! FEAR CLOUDS \_\_\_\_\_.

! FEAR CREATES \_\_\_\_\_.

KEY ACTION: SEPARATE \_\_\_\_\_ FROM \_\_\_\_\_.

! GOD’S \_\_\_\_\_ OVERCOMES \_\_\_\_\_.

KEY HABIT: \_\_\_\_\_.

*You will keep in perfect peace  
all who trust in you,  
all whose thoughts are fixed on you!  
<sup>4</sup> Trust in the Lord always,  
for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.  
Isaiah 26:3-4 (NLT)*