

Pastor's Corner

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord,

The other Sunday I was talking about the Israelites standing on the banks of Jordan when the spies returned to provide the information about the Promised Land. I said that the thing that kept them from going forward was that they had allowed their fear to keep them from putting their faith and trust in God—the same God that had brought them safely to the edge of the Promised Land. Later that same week I was reading from *Grace for the Moment*, by Max Lucado. The piece was titled *Perfect Love*; the scripture is from 1 John 4:18, which reads, “Perfect love casts out fear.” Lucado wrote: “Have you ever gone to the grocery store on an empty stomach? You’re a sitting duck. You buy everything you don’t need. Doesn’t matter if it is good for you—you just want to fill your tummy. When you’re lonely, you do the same in life, pulling stuff off the shelf, not because you need it, but because you are hungry for love.

“Why do we do it? Because we fear facing life alone. For fear of not fitting in, we take drugs (legal and illegal). For fear of standing out, we wear the clothes. For fear of appearing small, we go into debt and buy the house. For fear of going unnoticed, we dress to seduce or to impress. For fear of not being alone, we sleep with anyone. For fear of not being loved, we search for love in all the wrong places.

But all that changes when we discover God’s perfect love. And ‘perfect love casts out fear.’”
Traveling Light

If we would but let go and let God truly have his way with our lives, not only would our personal lives be forever changed, but the life of the church would be changed.

We fear high gas prices, the grocery bill, and many other things over which we truly have no control. But to worship God there is no cost, because the debt has already been paid. There will be some who will stop attending church because of the high price of gas, and yet they will make sure that they make it to everything else. It is not a bad thing to try to conserve, but I believe that it is a dangerous path we walk when we abandon God.

See ya Sunday!

Peace, Rev. Eric Lane – June 2008

