

Northeast Houston Community Church
Sermon: A Covid19 Sermon
Scripture: John 14:27
2/10/2021

John 14:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

First, let me say despite what some say, “the pandemic is real”. With that being said, it is real that everyone is able to be infected. There are some groups that are more at risk to suffer extreme illness and or death. Despite the herculean efforts of man, we are unable to get rid of the virus.

We are yet to develop a complete immunity vaccine against all of the variant strains. The best we have developed is a vaccine that is effective in reducing the symptoms and reducing death from the virus. It does not keep us from getting the virus thereby we become possible carriers of the virus with the probability of infecting others. There have been reports that some who have had the virus have been reinfected proving that once you have it our antibodies do not completely protect us.

[Cases of reinfection of COVID-19 have been reported but are rare.](#) In general, reinfection means a person was infected (got sick) once, recovered, and then later became infected again. Based on what we know from similar viruses, some reinfections are expected.

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/returning-to-work.html#:~:text=Cases%20of%20reinfection%20of%20COVID,later%20became%20infected%20again.>

There are also reports that there is at least one case of a person getting both vaccine shots and still he got infected.

[You Can Still Spread, Develop COVID-19 After Getting a Vaccine: What to Know.](#) Experts say people can still spread and even develop COVID-19 after getting a vaccine. They note the immunity from the vaccine doesn't begin to emerge until at least 12 days after inoculation.

<https://www.healthline.com/health-news/you-can-still-spread-develop-covid-19-after-getting-a-vaccine-what-to-know>

What is a person to do with the threat of death all around us? My first response is for all persons to consider the recommendations of the scientific community being those that know more about Covi19 than we do.

More specifically what should a Christian do (Those that believe in Jesus as the Son of God). Christians should do the same but go a few steps further. We must remember that no matter how bad things may get, God is still in control. Being a Christian does not make us immune to natural events, Pandemics, or evil included.

John 14:27 (NKJV) ²⁷ ... Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

I don't want to make this sound too simplistic; it takes practice to do this, but practice we should. Fear is natural and having some fear is good. It is wise to fear touching a hot stove. We call that having common sense.

Then there is trembling fear, fear of threatening or impending doom. Fear of what others may do to us.

Matthew 10:28 (NKJV) ²⁸ And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Then there is anticipating fear, fear and worry about what might happen tomorrow.

Matthew 6:34 (NKJV) ³⁴ Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.

I will only mention one more now with one more to come and that is reverential fear.

Proverbs 9:10 (NKJV) ¹⁰ "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Trembling fear, anxious fear and guilt fear does not come from God, it is a weapon of Satan. Fear can cause us to become incapacitated, (*deprived of strength or power MW*) afraid to make a decision or do anything. Have you ever been scared stiff? Fear is what Satan wants for us. If he can cause us to fear he can have influence and control over us. How can we be of use to God if we are constantly afraid?

I believe there are some things we should have some common-sense fear about and the Pandemic is one of them.

I read and hear about some churches that refuse to follow CDC guidelines regarding social distancing, choir and congregational singing which expel the virus from one that may be infected around to others in the area.

To adhere to proven guidelines is not a lack of faith but an application of wisdom. When Moses told the people that the firstborn of everything would be killed that night and to be saved, they were to put blood on their door post. Now at that time Moses was not revered as a prophet of God and some Israelites doubted him. When the death angel came it did not matter if you were an Israelite or an Egyptian, death was administered.

Exodus 12:12–13 (NKJV) ¹² 'For I will pass through the land of Egypt on that night, and will strike all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. ¹³ Now the blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you are. And when I see the blood, I will pass over you; and the plague shall not be on you to destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

I understand that to mean that even if Israel was God's people, they had to obey the instructions. That applies to Christians today. Just as I believe that if any Egyptian put the blood on their house they would be saved,

Let me give a New Testament example.

The devil wanted Jesus to tempt the law of gravity and its consequences, but Jesus did not do so even knowing that no harm would come to Him.

Luke 4:9–10 (NKJV) ⁹ *Then he brought Him to Jerusalem, set Him on the pinnacle of the temple, and said to Him, “If You are the Son of God, throw Yourself down from here. ¹⁰ For it is written: ‘He shall give His angels charge over you, To keep you,’*

The response of Jesus should guide our attitude during the pandemic.

Luke 4:12 (NKJV) ¹² *And Jesus answered and said to him, “It has been said, ‘**You shall not tempt the LORD your God.**’”*

Now, I am not saying that even the most religious person who has tried to do everything they could to protect themselves will not get sick and even possibly die. I cannot tell you why God would let this happen. He is sovereign and can do whatever He wants to do. I do know that whatever He allows to happen to us is for our good and or for His glory.

With it being so easy to contract the virus before you can get vaccinated, what should a Christian do?

I cannot tell you what to do but I am willing to share with you what I do based on scripture. Here they are as follows:

1. I remind myself that God is sovereign and can do whatever He wants to do, to whomever He wants to do it to and however He wants to do it.

Romans 9:15 (NKJV) ¹⁵ *For He says to Moses, “I will have mercy on whomever I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whomever I will have compassion.”*

2. I thank Him for the mercy and protection He has already given us. Then I pray always asking for God’s mercy upon me and my family down to and including my great granddaughter.

Philippians 4:6–7 (NKJV) ⁶ *Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; ⁷ and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.*

3. I try to focus on not having a spirit of fear. Not to worry about what might happen but to think on what I want to happen. This is the other mention of fear I spoke about.

2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) ⁷ ***For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.***

Now I have not mastered all these things but I know what I am working toward to increase my faith.

While I was preparing this sermon, I got a call from my pharmacy that they wanted to schedule me and my family for the vaccine this very week. Since all three of us are in the high-risk category, all praises and thanksgiving goes to God. We will take it not because we lack faith that God will continue to protect us, but because God made it available to us for healing and protection.

It may be good to remember the story of Hezekiah (*Isaiah 38:1–9, 21*)

In the book of Isaiah, the story is told of king Hezekiah who was sick and about to die. God told Isaiah, to tell Hezekiah to get his house in order because he was going to die. After Hezekiah prayed, God told Isaiah to go tell Hezekiah that he would not die.

Isaiah 38:21 (NLT) ²¹ *Isaiah had said to Hezekiah's servants, "Make an ointment from figs and spread it over the boil, and Hezekiah will recover."* (*2 Kings 20:7*)

God could have healed him by just a word but instead God used an external item as a medicine to heal Hezekiah. I believe God has blessed us with a wide range of medicine to heal us. But never forget that God is the healer. Doctors, nurses and medicine are used as His tools.

As I said, we will take the vaccine and we will still practice safe activity by wearing a mask and maintain social distance but most of all we will continue to thank God and make our safety a request to Him. When the Pandemic is under control, we will still thank God and become more social.

I pray that these few words are encouraging and offer some assurance during this threatening time. There is never any panic in heaven only plans.

Scripture References: **John 14:27**, *Exodus 12:12–13*, *Luke 4:9–10*, *Luke 4:12*, *Romans 9:15*, *Philippians 4:6–7*, *2 Timothy 1:7*, *Isaiah 38:1–9, 21*, *Isaiah 38:21*, *2 Kings 20:7*

END