

STOP THE SPREAD (Virtual Sunday #2)

SOME THINGS WE DON'T WANT TO SPREAD

- A. Three things
 - 1. Lice
 - 2. Fire ants
 - 3. Gossip - taken to a whole new level with social media
- B. Another thing we don't want to spread is fear (***John 14:27 NKJV***)
 - 1. Jesus warned us about fear in our own lives
 - 2. The key thought here is don't let your heart be agitated or timid and fearful
 - 3. Fear also has an affect on others

ISRAEL'S PRINCIPLES FOR WARFARE (***Deuteronomy 20:1-4 & 8 NKJV***)

- A. God outlined different principles for Israel than were typical for the day
 - 1. Because these were His people and He was factored in to all aspects of their lives
 - 2. Israel was often outnumbered but never outmatched
- B. The priest was the first one to speak to the army
 - 1. This was a different fighting strategy
 - 2. But when the army was seeing something bad they needed to hear something good
 - 3. The priest encouraged the soldiers to resist fear
- C. The last principle was very counter-intuitive - send home those who were fearful
 - 1. Had nothing to do with shaming anyone but rather protecting the army
 - 2. Everyone was given a chance to respond to the priest's message

PRINCIPLES GOVERNING OUR APPROACH TO THE CURRENT SITUATION

- A. Recognize that fear is an enemy
 - 1. It is contagious - and can spread to our workplaces and homes
 - 2. It's corrosive - and will negatively impact an environment (***Isaiah 54:13-14 NASB***)
- B. Resist fear don't give in to it
 - 1. An important help in resisting is focus
 - 2. Another resistance principle (***Proverbs 12:25 NKJV***)
 - 3. Don't tremble was the message to Israel
- C. Remember that we are positioned differently
 - 1. Just as Israel of old was a different kind of nation (***1 Peter 2:9 NKJV***)
 - 2. We face difficult times but we don't face them alone or outmatched (***Jeremiah 17:7-8 NKJV***)