

The Politics of Fear, and the Fear of Politics

John 12:12-19

A sermon series introduction to *Fear Not*

- We are all fearful—about something.

- Biblically speaking, is there really anything to fear?
 - Yes! But in the final analysis, **no**. Absolutely not.

- Let's look at that first part, "Yes!" This is important.
 - Both the Bible and real life are clear: there are many things to fear in this fallen world.
 - For instance, read the Psalms. Lots of fears there.

 - The Politics of Fear: both parties engage in this. Which are legitimate fears and which aren't?

The Fear of Politics

- One political fear is having *the wrong leader*.

- For example, violent strongmen, unfortunately, are also real in this world. This provides the backdrop for the *Fear Not* of John 12:15.
 - Jesus, the King, rides into Jerusalem on a humble donkey, not a war stallion.

Looking forward

Questions for Application and Reflection

1. When are you fearful about something, what's your most typical response? Do you think it's a good and helpful response?
2. Biblically speaking, is there really anything to fear? "Yes! But in the final analysis, **no**. Absolutely not."
 - Explain what would be lost if we didn't understand both parts of this answer, both the yes and the no. How would simplistically omitting one of these practically damage your life?
3. Exploring our political fears. John 12:12-19 says "Fear Not" because of the humble animal on which Jesus rode which speaks to specific political fears of a strongman leader, war, etc. What's your chief political fear, and how does the gospel of Jesus help you conquer it?
 - *Prayer* to the King helps us in our fears. Pray to him now about your #1 fear.