

*Words after the Cross*  
**A Word for the Fearful (Do not be afraid...)**  
Matthew 28:1-10

**Questions:** When has fear consumed you? What in your imagined future might have the power to consume you in an even greater way? What does Jesus mean when he says: “*Do not be afraid*”? (Mt. 28:10b)

*“My sheep listen to my voice; I know them and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of my hand.”* (Jn10:27-28)

*“...being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”* (Phil. 1:6)

*“Then he placed his right hand on me and said: “Do not be afraid. I am the First and the Last. I am the Living One; I was dead, and behold I am alive for ever and ever!”* (Rev. 1:17-18a)

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**Point to Ponder:** When does our fear in life seem to deny that we believe Jesus has us in his hand, and will not let go? FDR famously said: “*The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself.*” That is soaring rhetoric, no doubt. Yet FDR could not promise what Jesus promises those who belong to him. When we know that Jesus conquered the very thing that people fear the most, namely death; then why would we not take great comfort in his call: “*Do not be afraid*”?

**Next Week:** Next Sunday we will continue our sermon series entitled *Words after the Cross*, by considering **John 20:19-23** ‘A Word for the Restless.’

