

# The Courage of Jesus

Luke 5:10, "Fear Not."

I. Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines "courage" this way: "*that quality of mind that enables men to encounter danger and difficulties with boldness and firmness but without fear or depression.*"

A. In Jesus you will find bravery at its best, courage at its loftiest, heroism at its pinnacle.

1. A lot of men will demonstrate courage when they are cornered or trapped.

a. **This courage is born out of the fear of some personal loss.**

b. The goal of this courage is to preserve your life.

2. **This was not the courage that Jesus demonstrated.**

a. His was the courage of the mind, the heroism of the heart.

b. **The goal of this courage is to sow your life**

3. A lot of men will demonstrate courage when they are in the midst of great numbers.

a. **This courage is born out of the confidence that odds are with you.**

b. The goal of this courage is to gain the approval of others.

4. **Jesus manifested His courage in isolation.**

a. There was nobody to march with Him, He marched alone.

b. **The goal of this courage is to gain the approval of God.**

B. Jesus demonstrated the courage to speak the truth.

1. **It was necessary for Him to say things which would offend**

a. The religious leaders were great sticklers for forms of fasting. Jesus minimized the value of them. Matthew 9:14-15

b. **They were scrupulous in regard to sabbatical laws. Jesus could not keep them. Matthew 12:1-8**

c. They were fanatical in regard to the number of times they washed their hands. Jesus had no time for such foolishness. Matthew 15:2-9

**2. Jesus spoke the truth even when it cost Him both His reputation and His following. John 6:52-68 & Luke 14:25-27**

II. Is there any virtue more associated with manhood than courage? Courage is universally admired, praised and sought after. There are many kinds of courage - Lets look at Seven

**1 Corinthians 16:13** - *"Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong."* (NIV)

**A. Courage to Do.**

1. Had we been there and asked David where he got the courage to fight Goliath. David would probably have look at us with surprise. "But this man was insulting God," he would've answered, "what else was there to do?" 1 Samuel 17:17-58
2. **That is what courage is all about: forgetting ourselves and becoming consumed with the glory of God.**
  - a. The issue of strength for the task is not our concern. God will supply whatever we need, because it is His battle to fight and win.
  - b. **We are courageous because we know that God is with us, that God is for us.**
  - c. This kind of courage see's the world and the battles with the eyes of God. 2 Kings 6:14-17

**B. Courage to Endure.**

1. This is the courage of staying on a righteous course when it seems there is no end to your difficulties, when there is no immediate reward, but only long days of loneliness and hardship.
2. **It means keeping up your spirits when there is no end in sight.**
3. It is the bravery required when your name is dragged down, when your gossiped about and when your motives are questioned.

**C. Courage to Come Back.**

1. This third type of courage is that of a man who has failed and who must face his failures and try to find his way back to God.
2. **Once again the story is familiar, David has committed adultery with Bathsheba and has lied and murdered to cover it up.**
  - a. Does he have the courage to face God, his family, the nation and himself.

- b. Will he still be a man after the heart of God, or will he throw it all away.**
- 3. We see his response, as he recorded in **Psalm 51**.
  - a. He humbled himself, made no excuses, begged God for forgiveness and for a new heart and strove to rebuild his life.**
  - b. None of us is perfect, we will all sin. Will we have the courage to cast ourselves on the mercy of God or will we simply run away.

#### **D. Emotional courage.**

- 1. This is the courage required when everything around the seems to be going against us.
- 2. It is the courage called for when we are under pressure at work, when we've had financial setbacks, or when we are going through spiritual and emotional upheaval.**
- 3. Too many of us men are not manly in the way we face adversity.
  - a. We give into depression, discouragement and despair.**
  - b. It shows on our faces and in our posture.
  - c. We are unable to encourage our wives, children and friends.**
  - d. We become a burden rather than the burden bearer.

#### **E. Social courage.**

- 1. This is the courage to do what is right even when the crowd and popular opinion are against us.
- 2. It is the courage to stand-alone with deep conviction and clear vision when all others around us are saying we should compromise.**
- 3. Social courage is required when we must work with difficult issues and relationships.
  - a. Many of us have conflicts in our marriage and in other important relationships that we will not solve because we are cowards.**
  - b. We are unwilling to speak the truth in love - Ephesians 4:15.
  - c. So we remain unreconciled and distant from those to whom we should be closest.**

- d. We should have the courage to have the uncomfortable talks that will free us from the prison of estranged relationships.

## **F. Personal Courage.**

1. This is the courage that is required when we challenge ourselves to go where we have never gone before and to do what we have never done before.
  2. **This is the bravery demanded of us, when we must make a change in our character or in our personality.**
  3. This is the boldness that will cause us to take a risk rather than to remain comfortable.
    - a. **Many of us are stagnant, dead and bored because we are unwilling to push ourselves beyond our fears.**
    - b. I would urge you to face your fears specifically and take steps to conquer each one of them.
- **A man without courage is a knife without an edge.**
  - Courage is fear that has said its prayers.
  - **Courage is resistance to fear, mastery of fear, not absence of fear.**
  - Fear can keep a man out of danger; but courage can support him in it.
  - **The test of courage comes when we are in the minority; the test of tolerance when we are in the majority.**
  - To laugh is to risk appearing the fool. To weep is to risk appearing sentimental. To reach out for another is to risk involvement. To expose feelings is to risk exposing our true self. To place your ideas, your dreams, before the crowd is to risk loss. To love is to risk not being loved in return.
  - **To live is to risk dying. To hope is to risk despair. To try at all is to risk failure. But risk we must, because the greatest hazard in life is to risk nothing. The man, the woman, who risks nothing does nothing, has nothing, is nothing.**