



# the Counter Cultural Marriage

## The Case For Courage

### MAIN THING

It's not enough to respect courage, we must live with courage

### SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1:9, James 4:4, Matthew 16:26, Hebrews 2:14-15, James 4:13-17, Galatians 5:1, Revelation 2:26-27

### ICEBREAKER

Who was your childhood hero? Who would you consider your hero now? Why?

### OPENING THOUGHT

Courage is the universal virtue- almost everyone would agree that it is a good thing. It's opposite- cowardice- is universally condemned. However, while we love stories of heroism and courage, many times we don't participate in those stories. There is a disconnect between our respect for courage and our actions of courage. Fear of failure, fear of ridicule, fear of loss, and fear of death keep us from acting courageously, but a healthy fear of God will allow us to overcome them all.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was one thing that stood out to you from this weekend's message?
2. Dave listed four things that we fear- failure, ridicule, loss, and death. Rank those four from which you fear least to that which you fear most. Have any of those four fears, in this past year, stopped you from engaging in God's will for you? Can you think of a time when you conquered that fear and did what was courageous, even though one of those four things might have happened?
3. Dave said that when he was a young minister, he was asked the simple question, "What would you do if you were not afraid?" How would you answer that? What, in life, would you be doing right now if the only fear you had was of God? Answer along these lines:
  - 1) What would you be doing as a family?
  - 2) What would you be doing as a Christian?
  - 3) What would you be doing professionally, either now or in the future?
  - 4) What would you be doing relationally?
  - 5) What would we as a church be doing if the only fear we had was of not doing what God wanted us to do?

### LIFE APPLICATION

We were not put here in this nation, in this community, by random chance. God placed us here at this time and place specifically because He believes we have what it takes to live victoriously. He has uniquely gifted us and called us for this moment in human history. Question- what needs to change in your life? Who needs your wisdom, guidance, mentoring? Who needs you to demonstrate courage in a time that seems to be overrun with anxiety and fear?

### CHALLENGE

In Matthew 28:18-20 Jesus told us to go into all the world and make disciples, baptizing in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and teaching them to obey everything that He commanded. Unfortunately, many people stopped doing that last year. Non-Christians were not witnessed to. Young Christians were not discipled. People investigating churches weren't welcomed. Christian community suffered. Much of the work of the Kingdom stopped last year.

In spite of all that, a recent study showed that 30% of Americans reported that their faith grew last year. Our church has certainly seen growth- we are seeing 20% more people on Sundays now than we were at this time last year. We have God to thank for that. However, that presents a challenge to us.

These new people need Christian community. They need discipleship. They need community groups to be a part of. They need to be making lifelong friendships so that discipleship can take place. If that doesn't happen, we will see a mass exodus as quickly as they arrived.

How can your community group be involved in the work of the Kingdom- who will you disciple? Who will you invite over for dinner or coffee? Who will you serve? What new family or new believer in Christ will you show Christian hospitality to in order that our church serves them well?

God didn't give us a pass. He didn't tell us to make disciples . . . . unless there is a pandemic. He told us to make disciples. Let's be about the work of the Kingdom.