



A Courageous Church

MAIN THING

We Will Go Where Angels Love To Tread- The Dangerous Places Are Where the Gospel Is Most Needed

SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:30-31, John 18:37, Galatians 5:22-23, Matthew 28:18-20, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Philippians 3:13-14, John 2:17, John 15:18-20, Ephesians 3:20-21, 1 Peter 3:15

ICEBREAKER

Name a song that you listened to as a kid and enjoyed it, yet later as an adult learned that the song, well, wasn't the most wholesome of songs. Extra points if you went around singing it for years without realizing what you were singing.

OPENING THOUGHT

The main thing is "We will go where angels love to tread." Obviously that is a play on the cliché, "where angels fear to tread." The final part in this series, a Courageous Church, may be the most important one. The reason that we in America have the gospel is that someone courageously left the middle east, generations ago, to bring the gospel to Europe. Europeans brought the gospel with them as they left home and came to America. Without courage, the church would have died out long ago. A cowardly church will never be what God intends it to be. Courage is essential to Christianity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What was the one thing that you heard this past Sunday that stuck out to you? Why did it resonate with you like it did?
2. The sermon identified three inward qualities essential to a courageous church- Passionate About Truth, Absolutely Committed to a Very Few Things, and Centered On Christ. How is the Holy Spirit developing these things in you?
3. The sermon identified four outward qualities of a courageous church- Restless, Energetic, Determined to Persevere, and Optimistic. Which of these is your strongest quality? Which is your weakest?

LIFE APPLICATION

Courage may be the universal virtue- not everyone prizes honesty or modesty or frugality or any other "virtue," but courage is universally praised. The opposite of courage is cowardice. Just as courage is universally praised, cowardice is universally condemned. All throughout Scripture, God tells His people to take courage, to be strong, to have no fear.

What is the most courageous thing you have personally seen a Christian do?

CHALLENGE

One of the things I've noticed recently is the pessimism of Christians regarding the world, society, etc. Many Christians talk about "how bad things are these days" and "how we just need Jesus to return now." Jesus will return when He is good and ready; in the meantime, the Church has work to do. Maybe it's time for Christians to stop talking about "how awful things are today" because that pessimism doesn't lend itself to courageous acts of faith. If there is pessimism about the situation of the world today, work to remove that from your language and your attitude. Replace it with the optimism that leads to courageous acts of faith in God.