

STANDING COURAGEOUSLY FOR THE TRUTH

Uncommon Courage – Part 1

“No one had the courage to speak favorably about Jesus in public.”

John 7:13 (NLT)

“One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: ‘Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.’”

Acts 18:9 (NIV)

Jesus: “If you stand up for me against world opinion, I’ll stand up for you before my Father in heaven.”

Matt. 10:32 (MSG)

POPULAR ANTI-CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEWS

1. _____

Jesus: “A man’s life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.”

Luke 12:15

2. _____

“Are you addicted to thrills? What an empty life! The pursuit of pleasure is never satisfied.”

Pr. 21:17 (MSG)

“Do not follow the crowd in doing wrong.”

Exodus 23:2

3. _____

“It’s selfish and stupid to think only of yourself.”

Prov. 18:1 (CEV)

“Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus.”

Phil. 2:4-5

4. _____

Jesus: "Give to Caesar what is Caesar's, but give to God what is God's."

Matt. 22:21

"We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name..."

Then Peter and the other apostles replied: "We must obey God rather than men!"

Acts 5:28-29

UNPOPULAR TRUTHS IN GOD'S WORLDVIEW

The sanctity of...

1. LIFE: _____

"You Lord, made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother's womb...Your workmanship is marvelous... You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion... in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every planned day of my life was recorded in your book and every moment was laid out before a single day had passed!"

Psalm 139:13-16 (NLT)

2. SEX: _____

"Marriage should be honored by all, and the marriage bed kept pure, for God will judge the adulterer and all the sexually immoral."

Heb. 13:4

3. MARRIAGE: _____

Jesus: "From the beginning, the Creator made male and female. This is the reason a man is to leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two become one flesh. They are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."

Matt. 19:4-6

HOW CAN I LIVE WITH UNCOMMON COURAGE?

1. _____

“God has given us both his promise and his oath. These two things are unchangeable because it is impossible for God to lie. Therefore, we who have fled to him for refuge can take new courage, for we can hold on to his promise with confidence.”

Heb. 6:18 (NLT)

2. _____

“When they saw the courage of Peter and John and could see that they were unschooled, ordinary men, they were astonished and took note that these men had been with Jesus.”

Acts 4:13

“After they had prayed...they were filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke God’s word without fear.”

Acts 4:31 (NCV)

“Do not lose your courage, because it brings with it a great reward.”

Heb. 10:35 (TEV)

THE COURAGE TO KEEP GOING

Uncommon Courage – Part 2

Paul: “We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed and broken. We are perplexed, but we don’t give up and quit. We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going.”

2 Cor. 4:8-9 (NLT)

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE GIVING UP The Example of Job

1. _____

“Job stood up, tore his robe in grief, and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground and worshiped.”

Job 1:20 (GW)

“I can’t be quiet! I’m angry and bitter. I have to speak!”

Job 7:11 (TEV)

“Cry out in the night...Pour out your heart like water in prayer to the Lord.”

Lam. 2:19 (NCV)

Jeremiah (Jer. 20:67) Naomi (Ruth 1:20) David (Ps.88:15)

2. _____

“When desperate people give up on God Almighty, their friends, at least, should stick with them.”

Job 6:14 (MSG)

“Encourage each other and give each other strength.”

1 Thes. 5:11 (NCV)

“By helping each other with your troubles, you obey the law of Christ.”

Gal. 6:2 (NCV)

3. _____

“Why didn’t I die at birth as I came from the womb? Why did my mother let me live? Why did she nurse me at her breasts?”

Job 3:11-12 (NLT)

“Why let people go on living in misery? Why give light to those in grief?”

Job 3:20 (TEV)

“Who is the Almighty, and why should we obey him? What good will it do us if we pray?”

Job 21:15 (NLT)

4. _____

Then Job replied to the Lord: “I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You ask, ‘Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?’ It is I. I was talking about things I did not understand, things far too wonderful for me... I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.”

Job 42:1-3, 6 (NLT)

REMIND MYSELF...

That He is a good & loving God

Job 10:12

That He is all-powerful

Job 36:22, 37:5, 23

That He notices every detail of my life

Job 23:10, 31:4

That He is in control

Job 34:13

That He has a plan for my life

Job 23:14

That He will protect me

Job 5:11

“Though he slay me, I will trust in him.”

Job 13:15 (KJV)

5. _____

“Job said, ‘I came naked from my mother’s womb and I shall have nothing when I die. The Lord gave me everything I had, and they were his to take away. Blessed be the name of the Lord!’ In all of this Job did not sin by blaming God.”

Job 1:21-22 (LB)

“Job’s wife said to him, ‘Are you still trying to maintain your integrity? Curse God and die.’ But Job replied, ‘You talk like a godless woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?’ So in all this, Job said nothing wrong.”

Job 2:9-10(NLT)

“Watch out that no bitterness takes root among you... it causes deep trouble, hurting many in their spiritual lives.”

Heb. 12:15b (LB)

6. _____

“Put your heart right, Job. Reach out to God. Put away evil and wrong from your home. Then face the world again, firm and courageous. Then all your troubles will fade from your memory, like floods that are past and remembered no more. Your life will be brighter than sunshine at noon, and life’s darkest hours will shine like the dawn. You will live secure and full of hope.”

Job 11:13-18 (TEV)

“We pray that you will be filled with his mighty, glorious strength so that you can keep going no matter what happens - always full of the joy of the Lord.”

Col. 1:11 (LB)

COURAGE TO FOLLOW YOUR CALLING

Uncommon Courage – Part 3

• God _____

• Only I _____

“I beg you to lead a life worthy of your CALLING, for you have been CALLED by God!”

Eph. 4:1 (NLT)

HOW DO I FOLLOW MY CALLING? 2 Generations as examples: Caleb & Timothy

1. _____

“They gave Moses this account: ‘We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does indeed flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. BUT the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. The Amalekites live there... and the Hittites, the Jebusites, the Amorites, and the Canaanites all live there!’”

Numbers 13:27-29 (NIV)

“Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, ‘We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it!’”

Num. 13:30 (NIV)

Caleb: “...the Lord will lead us into that land and will give us that fertile land. Don’t turn against the Lord! Don’t be afraid of the people in that land! We will chew them up. They have no protection, but the Lord is with us.”

Num. 14:8-9 (NCV)

2. _____

“All the Israelites grumbled ... and said ‘If only we had died in Egypt or in this desert! Why is the Lord taking us to a new country only to die in battle? ... Let’s go back to Egypt where we’ve lived all our lives!’”

Num. 14:2-4 (NLT)

“The whole community began to talk about stoning Joshua and Caleb!”

Num. 14:10 (NLT)

3. _____

Caleb said “I’m now eighty-five years old. I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out, and I’m just as ready to fight now as I was then. So give me the mountain region the Lord promised me that day long ago. You know the giants live there and the cities are large with great walls.”

Joshua 14:10-12a (NCV)

4. _____

“Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but be an example for the believers in your speech, your conduct, your love, faith, and purity... And do not neglect the spiritual gift that is in you... Practice these things and devote yourself to them, in order that your progress may be seen by all.”

1 Tim. 4:12, 14-15 (TEV)

“...fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands. For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

2 Tim. 1:6-7 (NIV)

5. _____

“Keep a close watch on yourself and on your teaching. Stay true to what is right, and God will save you and those who hear you.”

1 Tim. 4:16 (NLT)

“Timothy, guard what God has entrusted to you. Avoid godless, foolish discussions with those who oppose you with their so-called knowledge. Some people have wandered from the faith by following such foolishness.”

1 Tim. 6:20-21 (NLT)

6. _____

“Run your best in the race of faith, and win eternal life for yourself; for it was to this life that God called you...”

1 Tim. 6:12 (TEV)

THE LEGACY OF TIMOTHY & CALEB

TIMOTHY: “I have no one else like Timothy...”

Phil. 2:20 (NLT)

CALEB: "Because my servant Caleb has a different spirit and he follows me wholeheartedly, I will give him the land he went to, and his generations following will inherit it."

Num. 14:24 (NIV)

2 OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO LEAVE YOUR LEGACY

- Help launch "What On Earth Am I Here For?" campaign nationally - Help launch 12 Saddleback campuses internationally

"David served God's purpose in his generation, then he died."

Acts 13:36

"Faithful is He who CALLS you, and He ALSO will bring it to pass!"

1 Thes. 5:24 (NAS)

FINDING THE COURAGE TO FACE YOUR FAULTS

Uncommon Courage – Part 4

“Examine yourselves to see if your faith is genuine. Test yourselves. Surely you know that Jesus Christ is among you. If not, you have failed the test of genuine faith.”

2 Corinthians 13:5 (NLT)

1. _____ **YOUR FAULTS**

“Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, ‘What? Are we blind too?’ Jesus said, ‘If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains.’”

John 9:40-41 (NIV)

“One of their own prophets has said, ‘Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons.’ This testimony is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith.”

Titus 1:12-13 (NIV)

2. _____ **HIS LEAD**

“Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ.”

Philippians 3:8 (NLT)

God’s goal is not leisure. It is _____.

3. **GOD WILL** _____ **YOUR OBEDIENCE**

“And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.”

Romans 8:28 (NASV)

THE PROMISE

WHEN YOU _____ YOUR FAULTS & _____ HIS LEAD,

GOD WILL _____ YOUR OBEDIENCE ... CONVERTING A FAULT INTO AN

ASSET, A WEAKNESS INTO A STRENGTH.