

## **The Joy Found in Courage**

Deuteronomy 31:1-8, Joshua begins to lead the people.

Joshua 5:13-15 When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" 14 And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" 15 And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

I am broken in a normal, everyday experience.

God, what would you have me do next?

Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

Courage reveals your connection to Jesus.

The act of remaining. (John 15)

Courage reveals Christ is already the Victor.

2 Timothy 1:10 which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,

Courage affirms your citizenship.

Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Ephesians 2:19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

Courage displays trust in a Savior that understands.

We often assume that the only pain Jesus had in his life was at the end when he went to the cross. This is simply not true.

He understands the loss of an earthly father.

He understands the pain of family rejection.

He understands the feelings of being misunderstood.

He understands hunger and temptation (Thank God for temptation).

He understands abandonment.

He understands hurting and mourning for his friends and the condition of humanity.

He understands betrayal.

Courage acknowledges who is in control.

God or Me?

Colossians 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

I long for us to be a people of courage.

Question: Are there people who are getting in the way of your relationship with Jesus?

Have the courage to open your heart so that Jesus can change your circumstance.

2 Timothy 1:7 for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

I pray that God would grow Second Mile. But my prayer for growth has everything to do with the heart and very little to do with numbers.

Two simple yet profound words were given to me this week. You can probably guess the first one...

Courage

The second is...

Joy