

Take Courage
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I. Introduction

- a. A great example of a mother is Mary, the mother of Jesus.
- b. Jesus performed his first miracle because of his mother's influence and instruction.
- c. Mary pushed Jesus into his destiny.
- d. The purpose of his lesson is to encourage people to have the courage to pursue their purpose like Mary encouraged Jesus.

John 2:1-11 (NLT)

Jesus' mother was there,² and Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the celebration. ³ The wine supply ran out during the festivities, so Jesus' mother told him, "They have no more wine."

⁴ "Dear woman, that's not our problem," Jesus replied. "My time has not yet come."

⁵ But his mother told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶ Standing nearby were six stone water jars, used for Jewish ceremonial washing. Each could hold twenty to thirty gallons.^[b]⁷ Jesus told the servants, "Fill the jars with water." When the jars had been filled, ⁸ he said, "Now dip some out, and take it to the master of ceremonies." So the servants followed his instructions.

⁹ When the master of ceremonies tasted the water that was now wine, not knowing where it had come from (though, of course, the servants knew), he called the bridegroom over. ¹⁰ "A host always serves the best wine first," he said. "Then, when everyone has had a lot to drink, he brings out the less expensive wine. But you have kept the best until now!"

¹¹ This miraculous sign at Cana in Galilee was the first time Jesus revealed his glory. And his disciples believed in him.

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong. Take courage. Don't be intimidated. Don't give them a second thought because GOD, your God, is striding ahead of you. He's right there with you. He won't let you down; he won't leave you."

II. About Courage

- a. Courage is revealed in the presence of fear.
 - i. Fear is our enemy because it is evil and it does not come from God.
 - ii. Fear stops people from accomplishing the things that we should be doing with our lives.
 - iii. Instead of fear, God has given us the spirit of power, love and a sound mind.
 - iv. Therefore, as Christians, we should not tolerate fear.
 1. We should walk in faith.
- b. Faith fuels courage to move forward despite fear.

I learned that courage was not the absence of fear, but the triumph over it. The brave man is not he who does not feel afraid, but he who conquers that fear — Nelson Mandela

- c. Courage is Contagious

"Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are often stiffened." — Nelson Mandela

- d. Courage becomes easier to act on when you know who you are in Christ.
 - i. When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you become a child of God.
 - ii. You are born again, & adopted into the family of God.
 1. God then becomes your Heavenly Father.
 - iii. Strength & Courage are attributes of sons & daughters of God.
 1. This is because sons and daughters can operate with the authority of Jesus Christ.

2 Corinthians 6:17, 18

Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.^[a] And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the LORD Almighty.^[b]

1 Samuel 17:45

David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied.