



# ON PURPOSE

"ON PURPOSE" WEEK 3 NOTES **AUGUST 20**

## KEY THOUGHTS

- Our third week in this series is a focus on "be courageous" from 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. Or technically, "act like men". The Greek word, *adrizomia*, is used nowhere in the New Testament. It's not saying to act NOT LIKE A WOMAN, but more so NOT LIKE A CHILD. In Paul's battle imagery here, it accurately means to have courage and make that courage visible.
- There are certain types of fear that are healthy and good – fear of driving too fast, walking too close to a perilous edge, etc. But Paul is talking about not letting cowardice in our faith dictate our decisions.
- 4 areas in faith that we tend to have fears, and sometimes let those fears lead to very bad decisions:
- **The fear of being corrected:** Rehoboam, Solomon's son, took the throne after Solomon had died. People from 10 of the 12 tribes came to Rehoboam to ask him to back down from some of the heavy taxation and forced labor his father had used. Rehoboam's response, found in 1 Kings 12:6-8, was to steer clear of challenging advice. He simply went to his childhood friends, whom he knew would tell him what he wanted to hear.
- We do the same at times by avoiding certain teachers, certain places in Scripture, etc.
- **The fear of tension:** David's son Absalom was furious with David because Tamar, Absalom's full sister, had been raped by a stepbrother, another son of David. After a two-year wait, Absalom sought revenge and killed Amnon, the stepbrother, and then fled for his own life. After 3 years of running, he is brought back to Jerusalem by his father, David (2 Samuel 14:24). And yet it was yet more years before David had it in himself to even speak to Absalom. The fear of overcoming the tension had ruled David.
- We are often in this position as well, fearing addressing tough issues with people, even if we love and care for them.
- **The fear of being mocked or left alone:** Pontius Pilate had one of the most significant choices to make, whether or not to send Jesus to death, even though Pilate had a sneaking suspicion that Jesus was more than a simple teacher. Mark 15:15 revealed what drove Pilate's decision; he wished to satisfy the crowd.
- The fear of being mocked or left by ourselves can feel gripping. Compromising because of the crowd around us is not limited to teenage years. This pressure doesn't back away.
- **The fear of persecution:** While coming to Jesus is free, following Him is quite costly. The call to follow Jesus has for centuries brought decisions to His followers that at times have cost them deeply. John Hus of the early 15th century followed after Jesus and it cost him his life. He was asked to back down from his faith and responded with, "I can by no means do what you want me to do. How could I face God?"
- **BE COURAGEOUS!** See below for some practical ways to gain this kind of courage.

- According to a research study at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be at the right place. The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem. This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.
- **We know the beginning and end – He helps us make sense of the middle!**

## SCRIPTURES

- 1 Corinthians 16:13-14
- 1 Kings 12:6-8
- 2 Samuel 14:24
- Mark 15:15
- Galatians 1:10

## Practical & Reflection

- Honestly ask whose approval you most crave. Galatians 1:10 clears up that following after the approval of others is contradictory to following after the Lord.
- Know your purpose. Just as a high rise window washer is more capable of daring these tall heights because they have a purpose in doing it, so followers of Jesus have courage when we understand OUR purpose: Love Jesus, Follow after Him, and Be used by Him to draw others to Him.
- Trust enough to take small, courageous steps. When tempted to be gripped by fear in our faith, small steps of trusting lead to bigger ones.