



# **SUNDAY EVENING**

## **AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH**

**Title:** Be Courageous

**Passage:** Ezra 5:1-17

**Speaker:** Associate Pastor David Wood

**Introduction:** Life has a way of placing us in moments where we know what God has said, yet everything around us makes obedience feel difficult. Sometimes it is not rebellion that holds us back, but hesitation, fear, or the weight of past delays. We find ourselves standing at the edge of what God has called us to do, wondering if now is the right time, if we are ready, or if it is even worth it. Ezra 5 brings us into one of those moments, a time when God's people had every reason to stay still, yet chose instead to move forward. It is a reminder that following God requires courage, not just at the beginning, but at every stage of obedience.

### **I. Courage to Rise Up (Verses 1-2)**

God never calls you to rise up without also supplying what you need to obey.

Courage always starts with a response to God's Word.

Don't wait until it's easy or popular. Stop waiting for perfect timing and start obeying. Rise up and lead again, even if it's been a while.

Courage means you don't let yesterday's delay become tomorrow's excuse. You get back up.



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*"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22)*

## **II. Courage to Keep Going (Verses 3-5)**

Obedience does not eliminate resistance... it often invites it.

Courage is not confidence in yourself, but confidence that God sees, God knows, and God is with you.

Courage is not just starting again but rather refusing to quit when pressure returns.

Maybe you're doing right, but questions are coming, doubts are rising, and you feel watched or challenged. But don't forget, God is watching too.

*"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9)*

## **III. Courage to Stand Strong (Verses 6-17)**

You may be questioned for what you believe. Courage means you don't water down truth to fit in. You stand respectfully, but firmly.

Your integrity may be tested. Your beliefs may be challenged. Courage means you don't compromise just to avoid tension.

Standing for truth in your home is not always easy in today's culture. Courage means you hold the line, even when it's unpopular.

There will be moments where standing for God costs you something. Reputation. Comfort. Approval. Courage means you stand anyway.

*"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58)*



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**Conclusion:** Rebuilding seasons test everything: your patience, your resolve, your faith, but they also reveal what your life is truly built on. So don't measure progress by speed or comfort; measure it by faithfulness. Keep showing up. Keep obeying. Keep building. Because in the end, it is not the ease of the journey that matters, but the endurance of your obedience, and God is always faithful to finish what He calls you to begin.



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