

Summary

This sermon focuses on developing courage as believers in the last days, emphasizing that courage is not just spontaneous acts of bravery but requires intentional preparation and training. The pastor teaches that in these perilous times, Christians must be people of courage who faithfully stand firm in their faith, forcefully step forward in their relationship with God, grow in righteousness, and embrace holiness. The message emphasizes that true courage comes from God's presence and requires believers to fix their eyes on Jesus, consecrate their hearts to Him, and actively engage in ministry and evangelism rather than remaining complacent.

The sermon concludes with a call to action for believers to seek divine appointments to share the gospel, recognizing that they are God's Plan A for winning the world to Christ. The pastor challenges the congregation to move beyond casual Christianity into passionate service, allowing no area of their lives to remain uncommitted to Jesus Christ.

Intro Prayer

Heavenly Father, we come before You today with open hearts, ready to receive what You have for us in this time together. We ask that You would speak to each person here according to their specific needs and circumstances. Holy Spirit, help us to be sensitive to Your voice and open to the ways You want to challenge us, encourage us, and grow us. Remove any distractions from our minds and help us focus on Jesus and His word for our lives today. We surrender this time to You and ask that You would use it to draw us closer to You and to one another. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Ice Breaker

Share about a time when you had to do something that required courage - it could be something big like a major life decision, or something smaller like trying a new food or speaking up in a group. What helped you find the courage to do it?

Key Verses

1. 2 Timothy 3:1
2. 2 Timothy 3:12
3. Romans 5:1-5
4. Hebrews 12:1-2
5. Joshua 1:5-9
6. 1 Peter 1:13-17
7. 2 Corinthians 5:18-20

Questions

1. The pastor mentioned that we're living in 'perilous times' as described in 2 Timothy 3:1. What are some specific challenges or 'dangerous times' you see in our world today that require Christians to have courage?
2. What does it mean to 'faithfully stand' in your faith? Can you think of a situation where you had to make a choice to stand firm in your beliefs despite pressure to compromise?
3. The sermon emphasized fixing our eyes on Jesus rather than being distracted by news, politics, or social media. What are some practical ways we can keep Jesus as the center of our attention throughout our daily lives?
4. How do you understand the difference between condemnation and the Holy Spirit's conviction of righteousness? Can you share an example of how God has lovingly convicted you to grow in righteousness?
5. The pastor talked about holiness as having a heart completely consecrated to God rather than external religious rules. What does true holiness look like in practical, everyday life?
6. What does it mean to 'love one another fervently with a pure heart'? How can we move beyond surface-level Christian relationships to genuine, deep love for one another?
7. The message challenged us to move from 'what I have to do' to 'what I get to do' in serving God. What shift in perspective might you need to make regarding your service and ministry opportunities?
8. How comfortable are you with sharing your faith and looking for 'divine appointments' to tell others about Jesus? What fears or obstacles hold you back, and how can courage help you overcome them?

Life Application

This week, ask God for one specific 'divine appointment' - an opportunity to share your faith or show Christ's love to someone in your sphere of influence. Pray daily for courage and sensitivity to recognize when God opens a door for you to be His witness. Additionally, identify one area where you need to 'faithfully stand' stronger in your faith and take a concrete step to grow in that area.

Key Takeaways

1. Courage is not spontaneous but requires intentional preparation and training, just like firefighters and military personnel prepare in advance
2. We must faithfully stand firm in our faith, making Jesus the unshakeable foundation of our lives regardless of circumstances
3. True courage comes from God's presence and requires us to step forward into a closer relationship with Him, fixing our eyes on Jesus
4. Growing in righteousness means allowing the Holy Spirit to convict us and consecrating our hearts fully to God's purposes
5. We are called to embrace holiness - not external rules but a heart completely separated unto God and His service
6. Christians must move from complacency to passionate service, recognizing that we are God's Plan A for reaching the world with the gospel

Ending Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for this time of fellowship and Your word that has challenged and encouraged us today. We pray that You would give each person here the courage to faithfully stand in their faith and to step forward boldly into the purposes You have for their lives. Help us to fix our eyes on You above all distractions and to grow in righteousness and holiness. Give us hearts that love one another fervently and the courage to share Your gospel with those around us. We ask for divine appointments this week where we can be Your witnesses. Strengthen us by Your Holy Spirit to live as people of courage in these last days, bringing glory and honor to Your name. In Jesus' mighty name we pray, Amen.