

How to Be BRAVE- It's Already Written

The report we believe for our lives should never be tied to the news we receive from the world around us.

Philippians 4:8-9 (NKJV)

8 Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy—meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

- When you have God, you have peace, hope, and courageous. Even if you don't feel like a very courageous person, Paul is telling us that you can awaken what God put in you by the way you think.
- Do you have a good report?
- As God's people we can and should have a good report in a world full of bad news
- Receiving bad news is one of the quickest ways to experience anxiety

Psalms 112:6-7(NIV)

6 Surely the righteous will never be shaken; they will be remembered forever. 7 They will have no fear of bad news; their hearts are steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

- The righteous are stable, steadfast, secure and you can get to the place in your relationship with God that you have no fear of bad news
- People take on fear, not just when something bad happens but before it ever happens.
- Certain phrases can trigger fear

Fearful Phrases

- "I need to talk to you about something."
 - When the boss says. "Can I see you in my office."
 - "Report cards come out this week."
 - When you have dealt with something you put it on the next situation: miscarriage, having babies,
 - Called by your full name
 - When your kids start off with, "I'm sorry."
 - This is when it's due."
 - "50% of your grade."
 - "Sir, your card is declined."
- Too much "bad news" can erode your confidence and heightened your emotions to the

What do we do with bad news?

Numbers 13:25-33 (NIV)

At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

26 They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. 28 But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan." 30 Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." 32 And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. 33 We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

- 10 men came back with bad news and 2 men came back with a good report
- **The report we BELIEVE is much more important than the report we RECEIVE**

Ex. Investigative reporters will sometimes write their story first and then fill in the gaps with information they obtain. Your story and my story is a good report and God has already written it. Our job is to live it and, through the Word, find pieces to fill in the gaps. It's Already Witten

- You are an investigative reporter and every day you gather evidence but before you start your day remember It's Already Written and live your day based on the nature of God and His disposition towards you

Read Scripture

- Moses told them to size up the situation not to size up themselves. God knows if we begin to size up ourselves we will shrink in fear
- We need to size up our situations to make wise decisions
- Moses' response: "I don't have to have good news to believe a good report
- The news is what comes to you while the report is what you do with it
- Faith will turn bad news into a good report. Fear will turn good news into a bad report.

- **We EXPERIENCE our PERSPECTIVE**

"We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."

- The grapes were evidence of the reality God was giving them their report was their perspective
- We don't solely experience the realities of our life; we experience our perspective of our realities in this life

- **The way we THINK is influenced by the company that we KEEP**

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- Everyone needs a Caleb(s) in their life to silence the bad news and help you find the good report
- The company we keep either magnifies our faith or magnifies our fear
- How much of what you fear (bad news) has been exaggerated by the company you keep?

Psalms 23:4-6 (NKJV)

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. 5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. 6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

- 40 years later Joshua also sent spies into Canaan but he only sent two. Why? Because he knew first-hand the effect of having too many bad reports. (***Joshua 2***)
- Like Joshua, you and I only need for 2 reports...goodness and love
- The "question marks" that come with bad news don't have to fill your thoughts instead your response can be the "exclamation points" of goodness and mercy...It's Already Written