

**Date:**3/25/18

**Scripture:** Mark 15:42-47

**Message title:** Access Granted part #4 "Courage raises the dead"

Mark 15:42-47 and John 19:38-42

**Intro:** If you were to make a list of depressing subjects, burial garments would land somewhere between IRS audits and long term dental care.

No one like grave clothes! No one discusses grave clothes!

Have you ever spiced up a dinner conversation with the question, "What are you planning to wear in your casket?" Have you ever seen a store that specialized in burial garments? If there was one, I have an advertising slogan for them to suggest..."**Clothes to die for.**"

Death is uncomfortable to talk about. In fact we use words other than death or died to speak about this. "Passed away, passed on, cashed in their chips, bit the dust, gone to a better place, or they are 6 feet under."

**Recap:** Explain where we have been- Triumphant entry (Psalm 118) PALM SUNDAY, cleanses the temple "house of prayer", Passover feast and washing of disciples feet, betrayed, denied, accused, and exchanged for a prisoner.

scourged, hung to a Roman cross, said **it is FINISHED**, then breathed His last.

Joe and Nick were part of the elite group of the Jews on the council. (Sanhedrin)

Nicodemus was the third richest man in Jerusalem. We see him bring 100lbs of spices, linen and other items needed for a proper burial.

Joseph took the body down. A certain level of dignity. Dead weight.

Begin the Jewish **Taharah**. (Process of the washing of the body) CR: ECC 5. Ez 16. Naked you came, naked you go.

The body is taken down, laid somewhere, remove the crown of thorns, picked thorns out that had broken in his head, wipe his face, chest bruised, side wounded, hands, feet, then rolled over and his back was wiped down. When you wipe the blood off the wound you can see how bad it is.

**He was now in loving hands!!** They would close His eyes. Then they lay him down and wrap him in linen. Not like a mummy. tied at the feet, knees, hands and at the mouth with a napkin.

All of that for a dead Jesus. They didn't know the future. 3 days.

These guys walked away covered in blood, defiled, and unclean.

I wonder what the next passover was like for them?

**Focus verse:** Joseph of Arimathea came, a prominent member of the Council, who himself was waiting for the kingdom of God; and he gathered up **courage** and went in before Pilate, and asked for the body of Jesus. (Mark 15:43 NASB)

Joe gathered up **COURAGE!!** **Courage raises the dead!**

I believe that the devil is after our courage. If he takes your courage He takes your calling! Satan wants to destroy you!!!

**He takes your courage in various ways!**

distance

fear

insecurity

unmet expectations

un-dealt with hurts

life taking words from another person.

a wrong view of who you are (most powerful).

finally a loss of vision (hope).

When these things are present, **our courage is taken!** Subtle leads to shaping...

When our courage is taken, these areas then begin to shape our lives negatively. ie. discouragement, depression, isolation, anger, envy, overreaction, poor decision making, and in extreme circumstances...suicide.

*"Thoughts become words, words become, words become actions, actions become habits, and habits become our destiny!"*

God's courage in you, will raise the dead in you!

Jesus defeated Satan and overcame death! Through Jesus' power the deadness of our discouraged life can be made alive again!!!

Same power that raised Jesus for the dead is alive in you!!!

Do we live as if the presence of the Holy Spirit inside of us is as powerful as Christ beside us? We don't WALK ALONE!!!

So, how do we get God's courage? FRESH LIFE!!

1) Courage comes when we wait.

I don't think that we live in a world that understands the art and power of waiting. Who wants to wait?

Fruit of the Spirit filled life? **Patience**...waiting.....

**God's timing is PERFECT!!!**

Our season of life and steps of faith..."I want to get a job!!"

**Wait** for the LORD; be strong and take heart and **wait** for the LORD.  
(Psalm 27:14)

**Wait (Hebrew-qavah):** hope, expect, look eagerly for, to bind together.

When we wait upon the LORD we bind our broken, empty, finite heart to HIS!! The outcome then is significant. supernatural!!! **JOY!!!**  
**He will never let go of YOU!!**

But they that **wait** upon the Lord shall renew their strength (*courage*); they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall **run**, and not be weary; and they shall **walk**, and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31 KJV)

**KEY!!!**  When we are worried, wounded, weary, wondering, weak... **don't walk...WAIT!!!** Humble yourself before the Lord and He will LIFT you up!!!

### **Process in His presence...**

At the name of Jesus, everything will bow!!! fear, insecurity, doubt, pain, SIN, DEATH!!! ....

2) **Courage comes when we listen to His voice.**

**What you listen you, will define you!** (1-2-3 listen to ME!)

**7**“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8**Keep this Book of the Law always **on your lips; meditate on it day and night**, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **9**Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:7-9)

We must make the decision today, to listen to what GOD says, and not our minds, friends, co-workers, spouse, culture, etc...

example: In the OT as they were rebuilding the temple Jerusalem  
Ezra 4. Not by might, not my power, but by my Spirit says the LORD!!  
Zech 4:6

When we wait, and then listen, **courage** comes like a mighty rushing river!!

Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, 'Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.'" (John 7:38 NLT)

The word of the LORD will give you courage!!! **Why are we so discouraged, discontented and defeated? We have laid aside our weapon!!!**

Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. And the Scriptures give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God's promises to be fulfilled. (Romans 15:4 NLT)

It is one thing to know what to do, it is totally different to actually do it!

3) **Courage comes when we encourage.**

Everyone needs to be encouraged! It is like oxygen to our souls!! You can do far more when you have breathe in your lungs!!

Lets strive to be a people that is uplifting and encouraging!! **Impart courage!! RAISE THE DEADNESS IN THE HEARTS** THOUGH ENCOURAGEMENT! Use scripture because it naturally brings life!!!

Take care, brethren, that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God. **13**But **encourage** one another day after day, as long as it is *still* called "Today," so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin. (Hebrews 3:12-13 NASB)

4) **Courage comes when we do it!**

## **We have to breakthrough the threshold of scary!!**

Joseph and Nicodemus did this!! They were courageous! They waited for the right time, they listened, they encouraged each other no doubt, and they made a move!!

Because of their courage, Jesus' body was perfectly prepared, and in three days would be **RAISED FROM THE DEAD!!!**

**AND THERE IS NOTHING MORE ENCOURAGING THAN THAT!!** 🙌

**Close:** (guitar or keys)

Today if you need courage you MIGHT need to remove some grave clothes because they stink!! They are repulsive to God!

Let the LORD lead you, love you, speak His encouraging words over you!! You will have files of joy and garments of praise!!

5) Courage comes when we are born again! (Self help vs. God help).

When Nicodemus came to Jesus at night, He was seeing to fill the hole in His heart...religion didn't do it, but **a relationship did!**

Jesus said to Nick at night, you MUST be born again!! It is not different for us!!

Pray for Salvation!!

Pray for back slider!

Pray for courage to raise the dead!

**BE STRONG AN COURAGEOUS!!**

**Song:** Cornerstone!!

**Additional notes:**

**14**And because of my imprisonment, most of the believers<sup>e</sup> here have gained confidence and boldly speak God's message<sup>f</sup> without fear. Phil 1:14 NLT

Nicodemus was the brother of Josephus the historian.

His daughters wedding was said to be the most extravagant, opulent in all the land. However 40 years later she was eating barley out of the floor of a stable, impoverished.  
Why? He followed Jesus.

100 lbs of spices  
linen cloth  
and a pry bar  
and a stool

Psalm 22; Ish 52,53; As the serpent was lifted up so then the son of man will be lifted up.

**The only man made things in heaven are the scares of Jesus.**

Joe and Nick were on fire for the Lord! with the 120 in the upper room.

A man can receive nothing unless it is given from heaven.

We must know God wants to help us. The devil wants to destroy us!!