

Jesus, His Followers, & Politics

Courage Required

World Outreach Church
Sermon Discussion Guide
Sunday Sermon: **November 05, 2023**



Courage is required for the season we have entered. In fact, it takes great courage and obedience to live the life of a Christ-follower and fulfill our assignments. The good news is courage can be built and developed—it is something that is learned, practiced, and strengthened. This is important to know. We are witnessing the broad, bold, and brazen manipulation of language to promote ungodliness, and that has caused many of us to retreat in fear of being negatively labeled by those promoting “cancel culture.” Church, if we don’t find the courage to stand for a biblical worldview and assert the truth of the gospel, and instead choose to promote social solutions over God’s truth, we abandon people to the destructive forces of evil and forfeit the blessings of God. We need to grow our courage.

I. IN THE SIGHT OF GOD

Exodus 1:15–17 ¹⁵ *The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, ¹⁶ “When you help the Hebrew women in childbirth and observe them on the delivery stool, **if it is a boy, kill him**; but if it is a girl, let her live.” ¹⁷ The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live.*

Hebrews 11:23 *By faith Moses’ parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and **they were not afraid of the king’s edict.***

Acts 4:18–20 ¹⁸ *Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. ¹⁹ But Peter and John replied, “**Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God’s sight to obey you rather than God.**” ²⁰ For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.”*

Acts 5:29–32 ²⁹ *Peter and the other apostles replied: “**We must obey God rather than men!**” ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”*

Revelation 1:9 *I, John, your brother and companion in the suffering and kingdom and patient endurance that are ours in Jesus, **was on the island of Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus.***

John 7:23–25 ²³ *Now if a child can be circumcised on the Sabbath so that the law of Moses may not be broken, **why are you angry with me for healing the whole man on the Sabbath?**” ²⁴ Stop judging by mere appearances, and make a right judgment.” ²⁵ At that point some of the people of Jerusalem began to ask, “Isn’t this the man they are trying to kill?”*

- ❖ Do you imagine that God’s laws are less significant than civil rules?
- ❖ Do you imagine the law of the land is more important than God’s law?

1. **There are ungodly laws, immoral laws, and unjust laws, and we have choices to make.” What current laws or policies do not align with our biblical worldview? How do you think we should respond to those laws and policies?**

Is Silence Golden??

John 18:37 *“You are a king, then!” said Pilate.*

*Jesus answered, “**You are right in saying I am a king.** In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”*

2. **Give an example of when you or someone you know has pushed past being silent and spoke God’s Truth into a situation.**

II. CONTINUE TO GROW?!

Acts 11:1–3 ¹ *The apostles and the brothers throughout Judea heard that the Gentiles also had received the word of God.* ² *So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him* ³ *and said, “**You went into the house of uncircumcised men and ate with them.**”*

Acts 11:15–18 ¹⁵ *“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning.* ¹⁶ *Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”* ¹⁷ *So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?”* ¹⁸ *When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, “So then, God has granted even the Gentiles **repentance unto life.**”*

Matthew 15:7–11 ⁷ *You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you:* ⁸ *“**These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.** ⁹ **They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.**”* ¹⁰ *Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. ¹¹ **What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean,’ but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean.’”***

- ❖ Love is not an excuse for disobedience.
- ❖ Compassion is not license for immorality.

Colossians 3:5–6 ⁵ ***Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature:** sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry.* ⁶ *Because of these, the wrath of God is coming.*

3. In what ways have you seen the gospel diminished for the sake of keeping pace with an “evolving culture?”

III. “FOLLOW THE WAY OF LOVE”

2 John 5–6 ⁵ *And now, dear lady, I am not writing you a new command but one we have had from the beginning. I ask that we love one another.* ⁶ *And **this is love: that we walk in obedience to his commands.** As you have heard from the beginning, his command is that you walk in love.*

Ephesians 5:1–7 ¹ *Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children* ² *and **live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*** ³ *But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God’s holy people.* ⁴ *Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving.*

⁵ *For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God.* ⁶ *Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God’s wrath comes on those who are disobedient.* ⁷ *Therefore do not be partners with them.*

4. Love is not an excuse for disobedience. Compassion is not license for immorality. How have you seen both love and compassion misused in our culture today?

IV. WHEN EVIL ARRIVES

Ephesians 6:13 *Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and **after you have done everything, to stand.***

Hebrews 11:25 ***He chose to be mistreated along with the people of God rather than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a short time.***

5. In what ways are you standing firm against evil in your home, your workplace, or in your sphere of influence?

PRAYER

Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable Your servants to speak Your Word with great boldness. Stretch out Your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of Your holy servant, Jesus. Forgive us for remaining silent when confronted with evil. Give us wisdom to know when and how to speak. May Jesus be glorified, and His Kingdom extended throughout all the earth. Amen. (Adapted from Acts 4:29–30, NIV®)