



#58

Theme: Be Courageous!

Scripture: Joshua 1:9 *“This is my command - be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”*

A Thought: This past Sunday my pastor challenged the congregation with the exhortation to share the word with at least one person during the coming week. He went on to say, “God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.” I realized his exhortation a few days later. At least once a week I visit one of my favorite coffee bars where I read the word, study and research for many of my Bottom Lines. The place was filled to the brim (no pun intended). I was lucky to find a desk and chair. I started to read Acts 10 when I notice an elderly couple asking the barista if there was any sitting available. I motioned them to my desk and invited the genteel couple to join me. We exchanged pleasantries and I continued my reading. What am I doing I told myself? Go ahead - start the conversation. *“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”* (2 Timothy 1:7) Within minutes I learned that they and their extended family had endured many hardships as newcomers to this country. We shared the importance of God and how important the Word is in our daily lives. I gave them the address to our church and the schedule for Sunday services. We held hands and prayed. We also prayed for her recovery of cancer that had been in remission. They thanked me and bid me farewell. I wished them God’s speed. They smiled and left. In retrospect, I looked back to the Sunday’s sermon...”God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.” Behold! I’m one of those ordinary people! Thank you Lord. I’m honored to serve you. Jeremiah 23:29 (NIV) *“Is not my word like fire,” declares the Lord, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces.”*

Now....what are your thoughts? Write them down.

Talk to yourself:

- Are you ready to give testimony about the Lord? (Study the Word)
- What is prohibiting you from doing so?
- Have you avoided past opportunities?
- Take steps to prepare yourself for a possible Jacob's Well moment.

Scriptures to read:

- Joshua 1:9; Jeremiah 23:29; Ezekiel 3:17; Matthew 24:14; 28:19;
- Mark 16:15; John 19:23; Ephesians 5:1-6:24, 5:14, 6:12; Corinthians 16:13-14,
- 15:58; John 14:26; John 4:6

Quote: Corrie ten Boom, Author, *Clocksmith and The Hiding Place*

(Corrie and her family assisted Jews escape from the ravages of the Nazi Holocaust)
"There is nothing anybody else can do that can stop God from using us. We can turn everything into a testimony."

Bottom Line: Henry T. Blackaby states in his book, *Experiencing God* "God requires obedience, God speaks through circumstances and God speaks through the Bible." Remember in John 4:4-42 when Jesus after a stressful but tremendous spiritual journey (Judea, Galilee, Samaria) was tired and rested next to Jacob's well? One of the most poignant and endearing stories in the Bible is when a Samaritan woman came to draw water. Our Lord said to her five words... *"Will you give me a drink?"* Thirty- nine verses later a group of people (Samaritans) who had been marginalized from the current society heard the word and declared *"we know that this man really is the Savior of the world."* Opportunities to share the Word happens more often than we think. Gents, we must be prepared, strong, courageous and never terrified to give testimony in all circumstances. (John 15: 27) *"And you must also testify about me because you have been with me from the beginning of my ministry."*

NOW.....THAT'S THE BOTTOM LINE.

Spiritual Dabbler, Your bro, Ray

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