

A Transformed Heart, Part 4: Faces of Courage

Sermon Outline
Sunday, December 22, 2019

Matthew 27: 27 – 66

- 1) The Soldiers Mock Jesus (27-31)
- 2) The Crucifixion of Jesus (32-44)
- 3) The Death of Jesus (45-56)
- 4) The Burial of Jesus (57-61)
- 5) The Guard at the Tomb (62-66)

Sermon on the Mount Scripture

Matthew 7: 24-29 (The Wise and the Foolish Builders)

²⁴ “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. ²⁵ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. ²⁶ But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. ²⁷ The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” ²⁸ When Jesus had finished saying these things, the crowds were amazed at his teaching, ²⁹ because he taught as one who had authority, and not as their teachers of the law.

1. What does it mean to be a Christian? **Following Jesus**
2. What does following Jesus look like? **Sermon on the Mount**

A Transformed Heart, Part 4: Faces of Courage

Recap: What does a transformed heart look like?

1. **Agreement with God – submission**
2. **Resilience – so that you can stay on task and the capacity to recover quickly from difficulties. (*Jesus as CRO*)**

7 C's of Resilience:

Competence: knowledge, know-how and skills required to succeed in a particular task. (Training)

Confidence: Belief in your own abilities. (Practice)

Connection: Developing close ties to family and community. (Prayer)

Character: Set of morals and values to determine right from wrong and demonstrate a caring attitude towards others. (Believing)

Contribution: Understanding that you matter in making the world a better place – source of purpose and motivation. (Following)

Coping: Being prepared for life's challenges (Preparation)

Control: You can control the outcomes by your decisions. (Yielding)

3. Growth – sowing (prayer/connection) and reaping (good fruit – whatever is planted in the Garden)

4. Courage – mental or moral strength to **venture, **persevere** and **withstand** danger, fear, or difficulty**

Movie: Hacksaw Ridge

- Private Desmond Doss, devout Seventh Day Adventist, medic in WWII, conscientious objector (refused to bear arms on moral or religious grounds)
- Inspired by illustration of the 6th commandment, Cain killing brother Abel and other events in his life (wrestled gun out of hands of uncle and dad having argument and swore off guns.)
- Felt he had a moral obligation to fight for his country after Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor; became medic so he wouldn't have to carry a gun.
- Private Desmond Doss walked into the bloodiest battle of World War II's Pacific theater with nothing to protect himself save for his Bible and his faith in God.
- The battlefield, located on top of a sheer 400-foot cliff, was fortified with a deadly network of Japanese machine gun nests and booby traps. It was nicknamed Hacksaw Ridge for the treacherously steep cliff, was key to winning the battle of Okinawa.

- The mission was thought to be near-impossible, and when Doss's battalion was ordered to retreat, the medic refused to leave his fallen comrades behind. Facing heavy machine gun and artillery fire, Doss repeatedly ran alone into the kill zone, carrying wounded soldiers to the edge of the cliff and singlehandedly lowering them down to safety.
- **Each time he saved a man's life, Doss prayed out loud, "Lord, please help me get one more."** By the end of the night he had rescued an estimated 75 men. (The always modest Doss reckoned he saved about 50, but his fellow soldiers gauged it closer to 100. They decided to split the difference.)

⁴⁶ "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say? ⁴⁷ As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. ⁴⁸ They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. ⁴⁹ But the one who **hears** my words and does not **put them into practice** is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete."

Luke 6: 46-49

Courage has 3 elements:

Venture: dare to do something or go somewhere that may be dangerous or unpleasant (requires you to act, step up, start based on knowledge (hear) and faith (putting into practice) – knowing who you are and in whom you believe)

- *Jesus* = decided to die to save
- *Joseph of Arimathea* –had to approach Pilate –no guarantees (risks: position and reputation as a member of the Sanhedrin – most influential Jewish leaders in showing commitment to Christ, discipline, being ostracized)
- *Mary, Mary* – accompanied Christ to the crucifixion – not running away or denying, praying for Him, witnesses – didn't fear Jews or Roman soldiers as if no hope, showing devotion
- *Private Doss* – Acted on what he was called to do – saving lives – in the face of danger with no gun to defend himself or others

Persevere: continue in a course of action even in the face of difficulty or with little or no prospect of success (requires you to not give up, steadfast, continue)

- Jesus – knew his purpose, didn't go off course
- *Joseph of Arimathea* – wrapped body in linen and placed in tomb – follow through (risk – defiled by touching the body, couldn't participate in Passover feast)
- *Mary, Mary* – continued, anointed body with spices with Joseph, went to the tomb afterwards, received words from Archangel Gabriel to report the good news that Christ is risen, continuing in reverence and faith in who Jesus is, still taking risks.
- *Private Doss* – Kept asking, praying, staying in touch, while being shot and not paying attention to his own sufferings, even saved Japanese soldiers

Withstand: remain undamaged or unaffected by (requires being ready – wearing the whole armor of God) *“Stand therefore, having girded your **waist with truth**, having put on the **breastplate of righteousness**, and having **shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace**; above all, taking the **shield of faith** with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the **helmet of salvation**, and the **sword of the Spirit**, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit ...” [Ephesians 6:14-18](#).*

- *Jesus* – resiliency through torture, ridicule, shaming
- *Joseph of Arimathea* – Mark 15: 43 – He was waiting for the kingdom of God, he was a disciple of Jesus (Matthew 27:57); risk losing friends, ridicule
- *Mary, Mary* – witnesses to his resurrection and appearance, first to proclaim that Christ is risen (entrusted with the most important news), Mary Magdalene's testimony was dismissed
- *Private Doss* – he was ridiculed and went through physical and psychological abuse for his stance, outcast (slight and shy), superiors tried to have him discharged

Homework:

Think about a time/instance when your faith in Jesus required you exercise Courage.