

The Days Of The King The Virtue of Courage

Psalm 27:14 (ESV)

Wait for the LORD; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the LORD!

1 Samuel 17:1-11 (ESV)

Now the Philistines gathered their armies for battle. And they were gathered at Socoh, which belongs to Judah, and encamped between Socoh and Azekah, in Ephes-dammim. And Saul and the men of Israel were gathered, and encamped in the Valley of Elah, and drew up in line of battle against the Philistines. And the Philistines stood on the mountain on the one side, and Israel stood on the mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. And there came out from the camp of the Philistines a champion named Goliath of Gath, whose height was six cubits and a span. He had a helmet of bronze on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. And he had bronze armor on his legs, and a javelin of bronze slung between his shoulders. The shaft of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron. And his shield-bearer went before him. He stood and shouted to the ranks of Israel, "Why have you come out to draw up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and are you not servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us." And the Philistines said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

1 Samuel 17:45-51 (ESV)

Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword and with a spear and with a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head. And I will give the dead bodies of the host of the Philistines this day to the birds of the air and to the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD saves not with sword and spear. For the battle is the LORD's, and he will give you into our hand." When the

Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. And David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone and slung it and struck the Philistine on his forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the ground. So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David. Then David ran and stood over the Philistine and took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him and cut off his head with it. When the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

What is courage?

“The mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear or difficulty.” – Merriam-Webster Dictionary

“The quality of mind or spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc., without fear; bravery.” – Dictionary.com

When we wrongly identify audacious, obnoxious, risky or brash behavior as courageous we create nothing more than violent, cowardly fools.

Simply acting in the face of fear is not the same thing as courage.

The virtue of courage comes when we choose to do good despite difficulty or danger.

1 Samuel 17:50 (ESV)

So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and with a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him. There was no sword in the hand of David.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ provides all the weapons we will need to courageously face down any fear no matter how gigantic it might be.

Sling

Matthew 9:2 (NAS)

And they brought to Him a paralytic lying on a bed. Seeing their faith, Jesus said to the paralytic, "Take courage, son; your sins are forgiven."

Micah 7:18-19 (ESV)

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity and passing over transgression for the remnant of his inheritance? He does not retain his anger forever, because he delights in steadfast love. He will again have compassion on us; he will tread our iniquities underfoot. You will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea.

Stone

Matthew 9:22 (NAS)

But Jesus turning and seeing her said, "Daughter, take courage; your faith has made you well." At once the woman was made well.

Psalms 118:22-23 (ESV)

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. This is the LORD's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

Strike

Matthew 14:27 (NIV)

But Jesus immediately said to them: "Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."

Matthew 26:31-35 (ESV)

Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, 'I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.' But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee." Peter answered him, "Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." Jesus said to him, "Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." Peter said to him, "Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!" And all the disciples said the same.

Sword

John 16:33 (ESV)

I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.

Jesus' death puts to death the fear of death.

Hebrews 2:14-15 (ESV)

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

When all is said and done courage is about how we face death.

The Gospel is the ultimate source of the virtue of courage because those who have faith in Christ have already died!