

# wednesday – june 24

Mark 6:50 (and many more)

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## //courage//

**When you saw the word courage, what was the first thing that came to your mind?**

I'll be honest...the first thing that came to my mind was actually a tie.

A tie between the lion from Wizard of Oz and the trio of Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego.

**Those two examples are probably on the opposite ends of what courage is all about. So what is courage and what part does it play with us living with Christ in/as our Focus?**

It's really simple. If you are to live in this way, with Christ in Focus and mainly, with Christ AS YOUR FOCUS. It will be hard. Not impossible, but hard.

In fact...this may be one of the hardest things you'll ever do. Sounds good right? But thinking about it...Jesus himself said that the majority will choose the 'easy route.' Those on the road to Jesus, living with Christ as their Focus, will not be the majority. So it will definitely take COURAGE for you to walk this life out.

I want you to read a verse, before you do, here's the context.

Jesus and his disciples are on a boat. Jesus goes to pray on the mountain and when he returns to them the wind is kicking pretty good. But they were scared, naturally right, a man is walking on the water towards them. So what does Jesus say in this moment of fear, uncertainty, and confusion?

**READ Mark 6:50**

Those two words "Take heart" is where we find the word Courage.

In this moment where life seemed hard Jesus was very clear....TAKE HEART, IT'S ME.

Know this....Walking with Jesus as your Focus will be tough. But greater than that is the reality that Jesus will be with you each step of the way.

When it seems he is distant, he is there.

When it seems really hard to understand, he is there.

When it seems like you're all alone, he is there.

TAKE HEART, IT IS !!

But we see this thought many times in Scripture, the need for us to "take heart."

The Bible uses many different phrases to communicate this.

Why don't you spend some time looking through each of the passages to see for yourself.

- **1 Chronicles 28:20**
- **Deuteronomy 31:6-8**
- **Ephesians 6:10**
- **Isaiah 54:4**
- **1 Corinthians 16:13**

These verses all share the same meaning: GET AFTER IT IN JESUS' NAME.

Now, I'm an EX athlete. Not so much now and some would say not so much "back then."

But one thing I had was heart. The one thing you can't teach.

That heart pushed me through many obstacles in my athletic career. Not that it was much.

But the point is this....the attitude and determination I had allowed me to do more with less.

Many around me were faster, stronger and smarter. But very few had more heart.

In this life with Christ....living for Him....it takes this same heart. A tenacity. Humility, Understanding.

**Tenacity** – you will be called to grit your teeth and get after it.

**Humility** – you must know that tenacity alone cannot win the battle. You need help

**Understanding** – you will need to know that you can't do this alone. Christ must be in and with you.

READ Psalm 31:24

**To live in this world with Christ as your Focus will be tough, perhaps the toughest thing you could ever do. But Christ himself has armed you with all you need for this task.**

The greatest thing we can all do, to live this life, is to be strong and take heart (have courage).

Notice the ending of that verse....this message is to all who HOPE IN THE LORD.

Let me ask this again: Do you hope in the Lord?

That's a huge question but one you must ask yourself daily. Where is my trust?

That list is a mile long and crowded with people searching.

Don't be that person....end the search. Find your hope in Jesus and walk faithfully with him.

To do this will take Faithfulness and Obedience.

So what's the point here?

Dare I say it again? This life with Christ will be hard. But what's the hope?

Jesus himself says to us "it is I" in the moment of weakness and when the way seems too hard.

So stop trusting in your own ability. Stop listening to the crowds and trust only in Christ.

Take all that God has gifted you with, the tenacity, heart, abilities and then insert the secret ingredient that only God can give.....himself.

But also, on the Christ in Focus side of things. This too will take courage as you set your mind and heart on things of God. This too is not easy. You've got an xbox, an iphone, and Netflix.

SO SO SO MANY THINGS COMPETE FOR THAT TIME.

Do you have the courage to set those things aside for a little while as you try to better understand who God is and how he has shown his love towards in Christ?

Growing up I loved a challenge. That's your challenge today. Make time for Christ.

So Walk in courage today – Take heart today – Trust in Christ today.

He's got the situation and he's got you!

**Share it: Where are you in most need of courage in your walk with Christ?**