

COURAGE

DAVID & GOLIATH

Courage comes when you know what you stand for

1 SAMUEL 17:8-11

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. 9 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." 10 And the Philistine said, "I defy the ranks of Israel this day. Give me a man, that we may fight together." 11 When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine, they were dismayed and greatly afraid.

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1 SAMUEL 17:24-27

All the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were much afraid. And the men of Israel said, "Have you seen this man who has come up? Surely he has come up to defy Israel. And the king will enrich the man who kills him with great riches and will give him his daughter and make his father's house free in Israel." And David said to the men who stood by him, "What shall be done for the man who kills this Philistine and takes away the reproach from Israel? For who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God?" And the people answered him in the same way, "So shall it be done to the man who kills him."

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The Contrast between what the Israelites & Philistines are thinking, and what David is thinking.

36 Your servant has struck down both lions and bears, and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, for he has defied the armies of the living God."

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FOR HE HAS DEFIED THE ARMIES OF THE LIVING GOD

1 SAMUEL 17:45-47

45 "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. 46 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, 47 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."

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**Courage will stand up for
what is worth defending**

Courage will stand up for what is
worth defending

**SHADRACH, MESHACH
& ABEDNEGO**

**Courage is part of your
kingdom identity**

Courage is part of your kingdom
identity

DANIEL 3:4-7

And the herald proclaimed aloud, "You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, you are to fall down and worship the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. And whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be cast into a burning fiery furnace." Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, bagpipe, and every kind of music, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden image that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

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v12 There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These men, O king, pay no attention to you; they do not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

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v16-18 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered and said to the king, "O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to answer you in this matter. If this be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

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LIFE IN EXILE

****Life in Exile**** — it means being living in a culture, but not succumbing to it. How do you do that? It begins with never losing sight of who you are, and what it is that defines you. Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego — with Daniel were some of the best and brightest, taken by the Babylonian empire, to indoctrinate and train them to serve in the government. But in the very beginning, they committed to not defiling themselves

>Daniel 1 But Daniel resolved that he would not defile himself with the king's food, or with the wine that he drank. Therefore he asked the chief of the eunuchs to allow him not to defile himself.

Not just dietary law — related to worship, serving of foreign God. It was closely tied, what i eat, defiles who I am. You can understand a little of it, one of the things about each culture is the food that they eat. Like broth.

So they were used to practicing what is right. They wouldn't compromise. you don't do things because it's courageous. you do them because it's your kingdom value

**Courage is revealed in
who you are.**

**Who you are is revealed in
how you live.**

DANIEL 3:28-30

Nebuchadnezzar answered and said, "Blessed be the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, who has sent his angel and delivered his servants, who trusted in him, and set aside the king's command, and yielded up their bodies rather than serve and worship any god except their own God. Therefore I make a decree: Any people, nation, or language that speaks anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego shall be torn limb from limb, and their houses laid in ruins, for there is no other god who is able to rescue in this way." Then the king promoted Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the province of Babylon.

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CAIN & ABEL

**Courage made in decisions
Courage revealed in moments**

Courage made in decisions
Courage revealed in moments

GENESIS 4:6

Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

>And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the LORD an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the LORD had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. **So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."**

>Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the LORD said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the LORD said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be

**The Courage to stand against
sin in your own life.**

The courage to stand against sin. or to flee temptation. To not be ruled by your sinful nature. It takes courage to stand against it. It takes choices to do what is right.

COURAGE

If you lack courage,
you don't have anything
worth defending.

if you do not have courage, you don't
have anything worth defending.

What is worth your own life? Your dignity?

Jesus, the perfect example of Courage,
died on the cross — courageously, to
glorify God, to save mankind, to keep his
promise. He would not shirk from that
sacrifice. He knew what he was living for.

Do you know what you're living for? If you do, if you practice day to day, committed to Christ, when the time comes to stand – the courage will be there. The strength will be there. But if you choose to deny Christ, if you choose to disappear into this world's value system, you will find yourself lost.

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JESUS

Jesus, the perfect example of Courage, died on the cross – courageously, to glorify God, to save mankind, to keep his promise. He would not shirk from that sacrifice. He knew what he was living for.