

Courage

Luke 5:17-26

¹⁷ One day He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the power of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing. ¹⁸ And some men were carrying on a bed a man who was paralyzed; and they were trying to bring him in and to set him down in front of Him. ¹⁹ But not finding any way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down through the tiles with his stretcher, into the middle of the crowd, in front of Jesus. ²⁰ Seeing their faith, He said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹ The scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, "**Who is this man who speaks blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone?**" ²² But Jesus, aware of their reasonings, answered and said to them, "Why are you reasoning in your hearts? ²³ "Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins have been forgiven you,' or to say, 'Get up and walk'? ²⁴ "But, so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins," — He said to the paralytic — "I say to you, get up, and pick up your stretcher and go home." ²⁵ Immediately he got up before them, and picked up what he had been lying on, and went home glorifying God. ²⁶ They were all struck with astonishment and began glorifying God; and they were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen remarkable things today."

- **Do we have the courage not to honor God rather than fit into the expectations of others?**

Matthew 9:10-13

¹⁰ Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples. ¹¹ When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "**Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners?**" ¹² But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick. ¹³ "But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Mark 2:16-17

¹⁶ When the scribes of the Pharisees saw that He was eating with the sinners and tax collectors, they said to His disciples, "**Why is He eating and drinking with tax collectors and sinners?**" ¹⁷ And hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick; I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

Luke 5:29-32

²⁹ And Levi gave a big reception for Him in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other people who were reclining at the table with them. ³⁰ The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, "**Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?**" ³¹ And Jesus answered and said to them, "It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick. ³² "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."

Luke 15:1-2

¹ Now all the tax collectors and the sinners were coming near Him to listen to Him. ² Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, "**This man receives sinners and eats with them.**"

- **Do we have the courage to teach those who are outcasts?**

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Matthew 9:32-34

³² As they were going out, a mute, demon-possessed man was brought to Him. ³³ After the demon was cast out, the mute man spoke; and the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "Nothing like this has ever been seen in Israel." ³⁴ But the Pharisees were saying, "**He casts out the demons by the ruler of the demons.**"

Matthew 12:22-24

²² Then a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute was brought to Jesus, and He healed him, so that the mute man spoke and saw. ²³ All the crowds were amazed, and were saying, "This man cannot be the Son of David, can he?" ²⁴ **But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "This man casts out demons only by Beelzebul the ruler of the demons."**

- **Can we deal with dispersions being cast upon us?**

Matthew 12:1-2

¹ At that time Jesus went through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples became hungry and began to pick the heads of grain and eat. ² But when the Pharisees saw this, they said to Him, "**Look, Your disciples do what is not lawful to do on a Sabbath.**"

Mark 2:23-28

²³ And it happened that He was passing through the grainfields on the Sabbath, and His disciples began to make their way along while picking the heads of grain. ²⁴ The Pharisees were saying to Him, "**Look, why are they doing what is not lawful on the Sabbath?**" ²⁵ And He said to them, "Have you never read what David did when he was in need and he and his companions became hungry; ²⁶ how he entered the house of God in the time of Abiathar the high priest, and ate the consecrated bread, which is not lawful for anyone to eat except the priests, and he also gave it to those who were with him?" ²⁷ Jesus said to them, "The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. ²⁸ "So the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath."

Luke 6:1-5

¹ Now it happened that He was passing through some grainfields on a Sabbath; and His disciples were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands, and eating the grain. ² But some of the Pharisees said, "**Why do you do what is not lawful on the Sabbath?**" ³ And Jesus answering them said, "Have you not even read what David did when he was hungry, he and those who were with him, ⁴ how he entered the house of God, and took and ate the consecrated bread which is not lawful for any to eat except the priests alone, and gave it to his companions?" ⁵ And He was saying to them, "The Son of Man is Lord of the Sabbath."

- **How do we face unfair criticism?**

Matthew 12:9-14

⁹ Departing from there, He went into their synagogue. ¹⁰ And a man was there whose hand was withered. And they questioned Jesus, asking, "**Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath?**" — **so that they might accuse Him.** ¹¹ And He said to them, "What man is there among you who has a sheep, and if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will he not take hold of it and lift it out? ¹² "How much more valuable then is a man than a sheep! So then, it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." ¹³ Then He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand!" He stretched it out, and it was restored to normal, like the other. ¹⁴ **But the Pharisees went out and conspired against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.**

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Mark 3:1-6

¹ He entered again into a synagogue; and a man was there whose hand was withered. ² **They were watching Him to see if He would heal him on the Sabbath, so that they might accuse Him.** ³ He said to the man with the withered hand, "Get up and come forward!" ⁴ And He said to them, "Is it lawful to do good or to do harm on the Sabbath, to save a life or to kill?" But they kept silent. ⁵ After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored. ⁶ The Pharisees went out and immediately began conspiring with the Herodians against Him, as to how they might destroy Him.

Luke 14:1-6

¹ It happened that when He went into the house of one of the leaders of the Pharisees on the Sabbath to eat bread, **they were watching Him closely.** ² And there in front of Him was a man suffering from dropsy. ³ And Jesus answered and spoke to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" ⁴ But they kept silent. And He took hold of him and healed him, and sent him away. ⁵ And He said to them, "Which one of you will have a son or an ox fall into a well, and will not immediately pull him out on a Sabbath day?" ⁶ And they could make no reply to this.

- **Can we do good without seeking our own revenge on our enemies?**

Matthew 15:1-6

¹ Then some Pharisees and scribes came to Jesus from Jerusalem and said, ² **"Why do Your disciples break the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."** ³ And He answered and said to them, "Why do you yourselves transgress the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? ⁴ "For God said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,' and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH.' ⁵ "But you say, 'Whoever says to his father or mother, "Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God," ⁶ he is not to honor his father or his mother.' And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition.

Mark 7:1-8

¹ The Pharisees and some of the scribes gathered around Him when they had come from Jerusalem, ² and had seen that some of His disciples were eating their bread with impure hands, that is, unwashed. ³ (For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they carefully wash their hands, thus observing the traditions of the elders; ⁴ and when they come from the market place, they do not eat unless they cleanse themselves; and there are many other things which they have received in order to observe, such as the washing of cups and pitchers and copper pots.) ⁵ The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, **"Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?"** ⁶ And He said to them, "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS,
BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.

⁷ 'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME,
TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.'

⁸ "Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

- **Are we prepared when others attack us for representing God?**

Matthew 15:12-14

¹² Then the disciples came and said to Him, **"Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this statement?"** ¹³ But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father did not plant shall be uprooted. ¹⁴ "Let them alone; they are blind guides of the blind. And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

- **Do we hold back the truth if others may be offended by it?**

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Matthew 12:38-40

³⁸ Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, "**Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.**"
³⁹ But He answered and said to them, "**An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign;** and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet; ⁴⁰ for just as JONAH WAS THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS IN THE BELLY OF THE SEA MONSTER, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.

Matthew 16:1-4

¹ **The Pharisees and Sadducees came up, and testing Jesus, they asked Him to show them a sign from heaven.** ² But He replied to them, "When it is evening, you say, 'It will be fair weather, for the sky is red.' ³ "And in the morning, 'There will be a storm today, for the sky is red and threatening.' Do you know how to discern the appearance of the sky, but cannot discern the signs of the times? ⁴ "An evil and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and a sign will not be given it, except the sign of Jonah." And He left them and went away.

Mark 8:11-12

¹¹ **The Pharisees came out and began to argue with Him, seeking from Him a sign from heaven, to test Him.** ¹² Sighing deeply in His spirit, He said, "Why does this generation seek for a sign? Truly I say to you, no sign will be given to this generation."

Matthew 19:3-9

³ **Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"** ⁴ And He answered and said, "Have you not read that He who created them from the beginning MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE, ⁵ and said, 'FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH?' ⁶ "So they are no longer two, but one flesh. What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate." ⁷ They said to Him, "Why then did Moses command to GIVE HER A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY?" ⁸ He said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart Moses permitted you to divorce your wives; but from the beginning it has not been this way. ⁹ "And I say to you, whoever divorces his wife, except for immorality, and marries another woman commits adultery."

Mark 10:2-9

² **Some Pharisees came up to Jesus, testing Him, and began to question Him whether it was lawful for a man to divorce a wife.** ³ And He answered and said to them, "What did Moses command you?" ⁴ They said, "Moses permitted a man TO WRITE A CERTIFICATE OF DIVORCE AND SEND her AWAY." ⁵ But Jesus said to them, "Because of your hardness of heart he wrote you this commandment. ⁶ "But from the beginning of creation, God MADE THEM MALE AND FEMALE. ⁷ "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER, ⁸ AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH; so they are no longer two, but one flesh. ⁹ "What therefore God has joined together, let no man separate."

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ **Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Him in what He said.** ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any. ¹⁷ "Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, "Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ "Show Me the coin used for the poll-tax." And they brought Him a denarius. ²⁰ And He said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said to Him, "Caesar's." Then He said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and to God the things that are God's." ²² And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away.

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Mark 12:13-17

¹³ **Then they sent some of the Pharisees and Herodians to Him in order to trap Him in a statement.** ¹⁴ They came and said to Him, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth. Is it lawful to pay a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁵ "Shall we pay or shall we not pay?" But He, knowing their hypocrisy, said to them, "Why are you testing Me? Bring Me a denarius to look at." ¹⁶ They brought one. And He said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" And they said to Him, "Caesar's." ¹⁷ And Jesus said to them, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." And they were amazed at Him.

- **Can we face those who are trying to find fault with you?**

Matthew 22:23-40

²³ **On that day some Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Jesus and questioned Him,** ²⁴ asking, "Teacher, Moses said, 'IF A MAN DIES HAVING NO CHILDREN, HIS BROTHER AS NEXT OF KIN SHALL MARRY HIS WIFE, AND RAISE UP CHILDREN FOR HIS BROTHER.' ²⁵ "Now there were seven brothers with us; and the first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother; ²⁶ so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh. ²⁷ "Last of all, the woman died. ²⁸ "In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had married her."

²⁹ But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God. ³⁰ "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven. ³¹ "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God: ³² 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living." ³³ When the crowds heard this, they were astonished at His teaching.

³⁴ **But when the Pharisees heard that Jesus had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered themselves together.** ³⁵ **One of them, a lawyer, asked Him a question, testing Him,** ³⁶ "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" ³⁷ And He said to him, " 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' ³⁸ "This is the great and foremost commandment. ³⁹ "The second is like it, 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' ⁴⁰ "On these two commandments depend the whole Law and the Prophets."

- **How do we handle controversial questions designed to trap us?**

Matthew 22:41-46

⁴¹ **Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question:** ⁴² "What do you think about the Christ, whose son is He?" They said to Him, "The son of David." ⁴³ He said to them, "Then how does David in the Spirit call Him 'Lord,' saying,

⁴⁴ 'THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,

"SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET"?

⁴⁵ "If David then calls Him 'Lord,' how is He his son?" ⁴⁶ **No one was able to answer Him a word, nor did anyone dare from that day on to ask Him another question.**

Luke 16:14-15

¹⁴ Now the Pharisees, who were lovers of money, were listening to all these things and were scoffing at Him. ¹⁵ **And He said to them, "You are those who justify yourselves in the sight of men, but God knows your hearts; for that which is highly esteemed among men is detestable in the sight of God.**

- **Are we ready to challenge people with the truth?**

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Luke 11:53-54

⁵³ When He left there, **the scribes and the Pharisees began to be very hostile and to question Him closely on many subjects,** ⁵⁴ **plotting against Him to catch Him in something He might say.**

- **How do we react when someone seeks to belittle us let alone destroy us?**

Luke 13:31-33

³¹ Just at that time some Pharisees approached, saying to Him, "**Go away, leave here, for Herod wants to kill You.**" ³² And He said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I reach My goal.' ³³ "Nevertheless I must journey on today and tomorrow and the next day; for it cannot be that a prophet would perish outside of Jerusalem.

- **Do we let others dissuade us?**

Luke 19:39-40

³⁹ **Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, rebuke Your disciples."** ⁴⁰ But Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these become silent, the stones will cry out!"

- **Do we stand for what is right?**

John 8:3-11

³ The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman caught in adultery, and having set her in the center of the court, ⁴ they said to Him, "Teacher, this woman has been caught in adultery, in the very act. ⁵ "Now in the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women; what then do You say?" ⁶ **They were saying this, testing Him, so that they might have grounds for accusing Him.** But Jesus stooped down and with His finger wrote on the ground. ⁷ But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, "He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸ Again He stooped down and wrote on the ground. ⁹ When they heard it, they began to go out one by one, beginning with the older ones, and He was left alone, and the woman, where she was, in the center of the court. ¹⁰ Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" ¹¹ She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more."

- **Can we show mercy and forgiveness when others demand justice?**

John 9:13-23

¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who was formerly blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath on the day when Jesus made the clay and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied clay to my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶ Therefore some of the Pharisees were saying, "**This man is not from God, because He does not keep the Sabbath.**" But others were saying, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said to the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸ The Jews then did not believe it of him, that he had been blind and had received sight, until they called the parents of the very one who had received his sight, ¹⁹ and questioned them, saying, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? Then how does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered them and said, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹ but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he will speak for himself." ²² **His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone confessed Him to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.** ²³ For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

- **Do we trust in the promises of God when man seeks to harm us?**

Courage

Luke 4:20-30

²⁰ And He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant and sat down; and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on Him. ²¹ And He began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." ²² And all were speaking well of Him, and wondering at the gracious words which were falling from His lips; and they were saying, "Is this not Joseph's son?" ²³ And He said to them, "No doubt you will quote this proverb to Me, 'Physician, heal yourself! Whatever we heard was done at Capernaum, do here in your hometown as well.'" ²⁴ And He said, "Truly I say to you, no prophet is welcome in his hometown. ²⁵ "But I say to you in truth, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah, when the sky was shut up for three years and six months, when a great famine came over all the land; ²⁶ and yet Elijah was sent to none of them, but only to Zarephath, in the land of Sidon, to a woman who was a widow. ²⁷ "And there were many lepers in Israel in the time of Elisha the prophet; and none of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." ²⁸ **And all the people in the synagogue were filled with rage as they heard these things; ²⁹ and they got up and drove Him out of the city, and led Him to the brow of the hill on which their city had been built, in order to throw Him down the cliff.** ³⁰ But passing through their midst, He went His way.

- **Can we speak the truth when it endangers us?**

Romans 13:1-7

¹ Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those which exist are established by God. ² Therefore whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed will receive condemnation upon themselves. ³ **For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but for evil. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from the same;** ⁴ for it is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil, be afraid; for it does not bear the sword for nothing; for it is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil. ⁵ Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection, not only because of wrath, but also for conscience' sake. ⁶ For because of this you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God, devoting themselves to this very thing. ⁷ Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

- **Do we honor the state but stand for God?**

1 Peter 2:19-20

¹⁹ For this finds favor, if for the sake of conscience toward God a person bears up under sorrows when suffering unjustly. ²⁰ For what credit is there if, when you sin and are harshly treated, you endure it with patience? But if **when you do what is right and suffer for it you patiently endure it, this finds favor with God.**

- **Can we continue in righteousness when we suffer for it?**

Revelation 21:8 "But for the **cowardly** and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

- **We can be courageous with men when we are strengthened by God.**