

## **General Leadership Principles**

Lesson designed by: Bob Turner

---

### **Course description: General Leadership Principles Part 9**

This course deals with the power of our influence as leaders. The lesson today is the second of three lessons on the principle of courage. Leaders must be courageous. Courage is not only a biblical principle, but one that we see on every leadership front. Bill Hybels' book *Courageous Leadership* is worth taking time to read.

### **Course Objectives: By the end of the class students will have:**

- A. Reviewed the definition of courage as a foundation for the direction of this lesson regarding leadership.
- B. Identified specific traits related to courage that were demonstrated by biblical leaders used in leadership.

### **Outline of the class:**

- A. Review the definitions discussed and the names of biblical examples of courage that were mentioned last week.
- B. This week, we want to consider the following biblical examples, most of which, if not all, were identified last week. Let's consider some specifics about these people related to courage. Read through the text and point out the areas where each example expressed or demonstrated courage. (*You can use all of them in one lesson or divide them up*)
  - 1. David (1 Samuel 17 read some of the phrases that align with these thoughts)
    - a. David expresses courage in his willingness to face the giant.
    - b. He maintains his courage even when discouraged by Saul.
    - c. He tells of his courage in the face of killing the lion and bear.
    - d. He goes into battle with nothing but a sling-shot and five smooth stones.
    - e. He confronts Goliath with courage, running into battle.
    - f. His courage was completely based on his faith in God to deliver.
  - 2. Hezekiah (2 Kings 18-19)
    - a. Hezekiah's courage was demonstrated in removing all the high places, pillars, false gods, and bronze serpent that became an idol.
    - b. When taunted by Rabshakeh, representative of the king of Assyria, Hezekiah refused to answer, tore his clothes, covered himself in sackcloth and entered the house of the Lord.

- c. He spread everything out before the Lord and prayed.
  - d. An angel of the Lord killed 185,000 of the Assyrian army and king Sennacherib went home defeated.
  - e. The text is clear about the nature of Hezekiah's trust in God.
3. Daniel (Daniel 1:8-21, 4:19-27; 6:16-28)
- a. Daniel resolved himself not to defile himself with the king's choice food or wine.
  - b. He and his friends were unafraid to test themselves by eating only vegetables.
  - c. He had the courage to interpret Nebuchadnezzar's dream accurately, even though it was unfavorable. He further urged the king to turn from his sin.
  - d. When threatened with being thrown in the lion's den if he prayed, the first thing Daniel entered his house, opened his window, and knelt in prayer three times a day.
  - e. He demonstrated no fear when thrown into the lion's den.
  - f. As with others, we continue to see Daniel's true in God to answer and provide safety.
4. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:8-30)
- a. When all the province was told to bow down and worship the golden statue erected by Nebuchadnezzar, these three refused to do so, doing what was right regardless of the consequences.
  - b. When questioned by the king, they were truthful about their decision.
  - c. As the king reminded them of the law and the consequences of not bowing to worship, and asked what god existed that was able to deliver them from his hand, the response was adamant, "We do not need to give you an answer concerning this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."
  - d. Even when they were bound and thrown into the fire, their courage continues to be exemplified.
  - e. Their trust was in the Lord.

5. Stephen (Acts 6:8-15; 7)
  - a. First, Stephen's courage is demonstrated in his standing firm in the midst of accusations against him.
  - b. When given opportunity to speak, he reminds the Council of Israel's history leading up to the coming of the Christ.
  - c. He was unafraid to point out the rebellious mindset and actions on the part of these people in killing the Son of God.
  - d. As he was stone, Stephen's greatest act of courage is represented in his words, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."
  - e. Stephen's faith in His Savior provided the powerful foundation of his courage.
6. Consider the following passages where Jesus mentions courage:
  - a. Mt. 14:27 In the midst of the storm, Jesus says, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."
  - b. Jn. 16:33 Jesus tells the apostles before His betrayal, trial, and crucifixion, "Take courage; I have overcome the world."
7. Paul (1 Corinthians 9:15-27; 2 Corinthians 11:21-29; Galatians 2:11-15)
  - a. Paul's willingness to become all things to all men so that he might win some to the cause of Christ.
  - b. Paul disciplined himself for the purpose of ensuring his life aligned with the message he proclaimed.
  - c. Read 2 Co. 11 text and consider all he endured for the purpose of preaching the gospel. This takes courage.
  - d. Also note how he says there is the daily concern for all the churches. "Who is led into sin without my intense concern."
  - e. He was willing to confront Peter when Peter's life was not consistent with the message of the gospel.
  - f. Conclude by reading 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 where he instructs, "Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith, **act like men**, be strong. Let all that you do be done in love." (Emphasis added to show a phrase of courage)
  - g. As with all the others, we continue to see the faith of Paul as the driving force behind his courageous actions.

Conclusion:

- A. When we look at the heart of courage demonstrated by these individuals, we find one powerful and significant trait: faith, or trust in God. These individuals were able to stand in the face of incredible adversity with courage, because of their faith.
- B. As leaders, we need to demonstrate the same courage because of the faith we have in God to guide and direct us, regardless of the consequences.
- C. Next week, we will move into a new principle of leadership that will help us develop as God's leaders.

Recommending Reading:

Hybels, Bill. *Courageous Leadership*

Maxwell, John. *21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership*