

Take Courage

➤ = next PowerPoint slide

➤ Intro:

- **illus.: burial of Jesus** – paint picture, Jews, crucifixion, death, burial
 - **Joseph of Arimathea**, a prominent member of the Council, **took courage and asked Pilate** for Jesus' body, so he could bury it (Mk. 15:43)
 - **Nicodemus**, a ruler of the Jews, helped him, having once sneaked at night to see Jesus, **took courage and helped Joseph** bury Jesus
 - **turned their backs on everything and everyone who opposed Jesus** (Jewish leaders), to serve Jesus, and bury His body – **courage, strength**
- **like them, we have to take courage, to follow in Jesus' footsteps as a disciple**

➤ As God's children, we take courage

- **Ps. 27:14** **be strong, take courage, wait on the Lord**
 - **"take"** - make the decision, proactive, ownership, control fear
- **Ps. 31:24** **be strong, take courage**, all who **hope in the Lord**
 - **"take"** - hope and trust in God enables us to take courage – overcome fear

➤ - application: spiritual strength is to take courage in the Lord – wait, hope

- **1 Cor. 16:13** "Be on the **alert**, stand **firm in the faith**, act **like men (courage, strong)**, **be strong.**"
- - **Eph. 6:10** "Finally, **be strong in the Lord** and in the **strength of His might.**"
- - **2 Tim. 2:1** "You therefore, my son, **be strong in the grace** that is in Christ Jesus."

➤ We take courage because we believe God and His word – trust

- **Heb. 6:13-14, 17-18, 19** **we take courage** (have strong encouragement) **because of the promises in God's word** – hope, anchor

➤ - illus.: Joshua, after Moses died, when he took over leadership of Israel

- **Josh. 1:6-9** **strong and courageous**, promises, do all God commanded, law not depart from mouth, meditate on it day and night, confident because God **commanded** it, not tremble or be dismayed – **faith**
- **application: today, church, school, work, members of society, everything we do**

➤ - illus.: Jericho, not believe God, not obey, not courageous

- **Josh. 2:8-9, 11** **not courageous** – not have faith, God
- **contrast Rahab: faith, obeyed, had courage**

- application: we are in a world of unbelievers who don't have courage

- **we are different: courage, strong, spiritually prosperous, materially blessed** – **faith, obey, word**
- **therefore we act differently: because we believe differently** – God, word

- **We take courage because the Lord is with us**
 - **2 Th. 3:16b** the Lord is with us, every moment of every day, everywhere
- **- illus.: like Israel, we take courage knowing the Lord is with us**
 - **Hag. 2:4-5** courage, knowing the Lord is with us
 - **Hag. 2:6-9** prophet looks forward to the church (kingdom), church an antitype of Israel
- **- Heb. 12:26-28a Paul quotes from Ha. 2:6 – we take courage today, knowing Lord is with us**
 - **church / personal:** we take courage because God is with us, because we are His children, just as Israel was under the Old Covenant

- **We take courage because the Lord is for us – fighting for us – nothing can separate us from His love**
 - **Rom. 8:31b** “If God is for us, who is against us?”
 - **significance of God being for us – below**
- **- Rom. 5:3-5, 6, 7-8, 9-10, 11** rejoice (exult), spiritual growth, Jesus died for us, saved from wrath to come, saved by Jesus’ life, received the reconciliation
- **- Rom. 8:28** God makes all things work together for good
 - **life is not a waste, it has a purpose**
- **Rom. 8:29-30** God predestined us, we’ll be glorified
 - **we know the outcome of our lives – heaven**
- **Rom. 8:31-32** God gives us freely everything we need
 - **no lack, have all sufficiency**
- **Rom. 8:33-34** Jesus is interceding for us
 - **we’re on Jesus’ side – He won’t fail – we won’t fail**
- **Rom. 8:35, 37** we overwhelmingly conquer
 - **our victory over Satan and sin and death is huge – decisive**
- **Rom. 8:38-39** nothing can stop us
 - **nothing can separate us from God, so nothing can stop us from succeeding**
- **illus.: confidence like David, when he fought Goliath, ran to the battle line**
 - **1 Sam. 17:45-47**
 - 45** Then David said to the Philistine, "You come to me with a sword, a spear, and 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 taunted.
 - 46** "This day the **LORD will deliver you up into my hands**, and I will strike you down and remove your head from you. And I will give the dead bodies of the army of the Philistines this day to the birds of the sky and 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 does not deliver by sword or by spear; for the **battle is the LORD'S** and He will give you into our hands."
 - **song 4s, “The Battle Belongs To The Lord”** - review verses, then chorus

➤ **We take courage because we'll spend eternity in heaven with God**

- **2 Cor. 5:6-8** always of **good courage** (vs. 6a. 8a)

- **vs. 6** **knowing**. . . .

- **vs. 7** so we **walk by**. . . .

- **vs. 8** so we **prefer to** be absent from the body, and at home with the Lord

➤ **Summary / Inv.**

- **summary:**

- as God's children, we **take courage**

- we take courage **because we believe God and His word**

- we take courage **because the Lord is with us**

- we take courage **because the Lord is for us**

- we take courage **because we'll spend eternity in heaven with God**

- **inv.: taking courage begins with becoming a child of God. . . .**

- **as a Christian**, have the courage to do the right things

- **as a Christian**, have the courage to correct your mistakes and make them right