

COURAGE

THE BOOK OF ESTHER



The Courage of Calling March 20, 2022

Speaker: Pastor Mark Batterson

Scripture: Esther 9:1

Sermon Overview

At critical junctures in our lives, situations present themselves that call for courage. Are you going to let FEAR or FAITH dictate your decisions? Are you going to OFFEND GOD or OFFEND PEOPLE? Are you going to PLAY IT SAFE or TAKE A RISK? These are the days when decades happen. The courage of calling is risking ME for WE. The courage of calling is enduring present-tense PAIN for eternal GAIN. The courage of calling is living according to biblical convictions—no reserves, no retreats, no regrets.

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What does being courageous look like in your everyday life?
2. What verse(s) give you courage to stand in the Word?

Sermon Specific Questions:

1. In what areas has the Lord been stirring up courage in you this series?
2. Pastor Mark says, "Courage is doing what's right," and he humbly shared there are times we do not get it right. When was a time where you should've chosen courage and didn't have the courage to do the right thing? How did you leverage your regret?
3. What area in your life do you need to sanctify your ego and surrender your control?
4. Pastor Mark shared a word of knowledge, "Don't let one person ruin your life. Don't let them live in your head." How did this word impact you?

Digging Deeper:

- Historical Study– Do a study of Susa and research a map of the Persian Empire-- explore the historical context. Why was this area important as the epicenter of the Ancient World? When did Susa become the capital? Why was this area important for both Nehemiah and Esther?

Practical Application:

- Make a Bible reading plan a daily discipline and connect with NCC Daily. (Download the [NCC app](#) to find our plan).
- Commit to a weekly fast Sundown Wednesday - Sundown Thursday, throughout Lent. You can find fasting resources at ncc.re/fast.
- Join our Main Upper Zoom online prayer group on Wednesdays and our new Upper Zoom Prayer Pods on other days. Main Upper Zoom: Wednesday mornings, 7:14am ET ncc.re/upperzoom. Upper Zoom Prayer Pods meet at different times and days during the week. Go to ncc.re/prayerpods to sign up.