

## **COURAGE**

### **Matthew 14:4**

***For John had been saying to him, "It is not lawful for you to have her."***

Webster's *New Collegiate Dictionary* defines courage as "mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty." That is a mouthful but it shows what John the Baptist clearly had. Courage enabled him to tell the truth to Herod Antipas. At the risk of his own life, John rebuked a ruler who had stolen his own brother's wife. The end result was that John lost his head.

If John had the courage to confront Herod, why do I not have the courage to speak to others about Jesus? I have yet to encounter someone who would kill me for doing that. I can be pretty confident that, if I present the Gospel to someone in this country, it will NOT cost me my life. Though there are extremely rare exceptions to that, telling other people the truth about Jesus to those in our community is not going to put us in any physical danger.

Why, then, are we not more bold in doing that? It is, perhaps, the fear of other things. Rejection and ridicule are intimidating things and Satan uses the fear of those to keep us from sharing the Good News with others. If John could confront a sinful ruler about his wicked lifestyle, surely I can speak to others about Jesus. All it takes is a little courage. We won't lose our heads but we just might lead someone to Jesus.

**--Ron Harper--**

## ***Worshipping in Spirit and in Truth***

### ***Amos 5:21-24***

“Wherever you are, be all there.” This phrase coined by Jim Elliot has become one of my favorites over the past few years. While I sat in a classroom at Freed-Hardeman, tempted by my computer to play games and be on social media during lectures, I would remember this quote. No, I didn’t always obey this quote, but it still rang out in my head. This phrase simply means that when we are involved in something, we need to be all in, focused, and engaged in what is happening around us.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman, in her attempt to change the subject to the spiritual differences between the Samaritans and the Jews, that there would come a day when people would not worship God on any mountain but would worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23). When we worship, are we worshipping in spirit and in truth? We all could easily admit that there are times where our hearts have not been fully engaged in worship. We come to worship and we sit in worship, but we are not offering worship to God. How does God feel about this?

In Amos 5:21-24, God plainly tells us how he feels when we just “run through the motions.” God tells us that even though we do the acts and go through the motions, when our hearts are not focused and our motives are not pure, then God just doesn’t want it.

As we worship today, I ask that we all be focused on our offering to God. What are we giving him as we worship? Are we all where we need to be? Do we believe the songs we sing or the words we read or the message we hear? Are we going to let the worship we give be pleasing to God or will our actions anger God to the point of rejecting us?

In verse 24 of the fifth chapter of Amos, God says, “But let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.” What is flowing from our lives? Let’s begin with our worship flowing from us as offerings to the great and mighty God.

***Joshua Houston***

## ***PLEASE REMEMBER IN PRAYER***

### **AT HOME**

Ron Bowersock, Clyde Bowman, Ernestine Taylor

### **TAKING TREATMENTS**

Lois Arnold, Carolyn Thomas, Janneil Brown

### **SHUT INS**

Rita Reed, Mabel Robertson, Houston Henry, Oleta Bullard

### **PRAYER REQUEST:**

Shirley Bibb, Opal Jones, Dan & Lorene Stephens, Wayne Mobbs, Marie Fleming, Lorene Maddox, Imogene Bozeman, Selma Boyd, Janneil Brown, Gerald Wiseman, Ron Bowersock, Melba Young, Jeanie Young, Oleta Bullard, Mabel Robertson

### **NURSING HOMES & ASSISTED LIVING:**

\*MEMBERS

**ADAMS PLACE:** Nora Fann\*

**DIVERSICARE OF SMYRNA:** Jean Nickens\*

**NHC:** Sue Reeves\*, Lizzie Bush, Geri Melton\*

**STONES RIVER MANOR:** Edna Vance\*, Virgie Leonard\*, Margaret Davidson\*, Jeweldean Hall\*, Laura Wiser\*, Lillian Whitworth, Louise McKnight\*, Martha DeVore

## ***MILITARY***

Please keep **Tony Berry** in your prayers, while he is stationed in California at Camp Pendleton.

## ***BUILDING FUND***

We have received a Building Fund donation In Memory of **Betty Shoemaker** by the following:

*\*The Tedder Company*

## ***NEWS & NOTES***

**Visitors** - We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please fill out a visitor's card and place it in the collection plate.

If you have a name to add to the **Barnabas** list, please fill out a Barnabas card and place it in the collection plate.

We have received a card from **Lois Arnold**.

**Movie Night** – tonight after worship service. Guys bring can drinks and girls bring desserts or snacks.

**Elders/deacons meeting** today at 3:30 p.m.

East Main church of Christ - **Young Men's Seminar** on February 6<sup>th</sup>. More information in the foyer.

**Couples Retreat** in Pigeon Forge – March 18 – 20, 2016

**CYC** - February 26 – 28, 2016.

**Greeters** are needed. Sign- up list is in the foyer.

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## SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday	
Morning Worship	9:00 am
Bible Classes	10:15 am
Evening Worship	5:30 pm
Wednesday	
Ladies Morning Bible Class	10:00 am
Evening Bible Classes	6:30 pm

### ELDERS

B.K. Ham  
Jim Hatfield  
Jon Holland  
Andy Mitchell  
Randall Phifer  
Fred Rogers  
Keith Short

### MINISTER

Ron Harper

### ASSOCIATE MINISTER

Joshua Houston

### DEACONS

Larry Benson	Andy Melton
Michael Bowman	Brian Melton
Craig Buckner	Alan Pepper
Bob Hoover	Wendell Wilson

### FOR THE RECORD

*January 10, 2016*

<b>Sunday</b>	<b>AM worship</b>	<b>223</b>
	<b>Bible classes</b>	<b>179</b>
	<b>PM worship</b>	<b>183</b>
	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>\$5,912.91</b>

**Gospel Meeting**      **Mon. - 95    Tues. - 102**

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>PM Bible classes</b>	<b>166</b>
<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>AM Ladies Class (Sept-May)</b>	<b>17</b>

### GREETERS

Please be at the door 15  
minutes prior to services!



#### January 17

Dean Thompson  
Regenia Grissom

#### January 24

Louise Smithson  
Robert & Mary Ann McKnight

*To Our Honored Guests...*

*We are happy you chose to worship with us today! Please stay after our assembly so that we can get acquainted with you and your family. We invite you to come back as often as you have opportunity!*

*We were honored by your presence!*