

My Declaration: Lead Courageously

“People always say that I stayed in my seat because I was tired, but that isn’t true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in...” – Rosa Parks

“When that white bus driver stepped back toward us, when he waved his hand and ordered us up out of our seats, I felt a determination cover my body like a quilt on a winter night.” --- Rosa Parks

Big Idea: Leading courageously is not the absence of fear, it is the absence of self.

Big Question: How do I lead courageously?

Main Scripture: Genesis 6:9 - 7:10

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Genesis 6:9⁹ This is the account of Noah and his family. Noah was a righteous man, the only blameless person living on earth at the time, and he walked in close fellowship with God.

Genesis 6:10-14a¹⁰ Noah was the father of three sons: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. ¹¹ Now God saw that the earth had become corrupt and was filled with violence. ¹² God observed all this corruption in the world, for everyone on earth was corrupt. ¹³ So God said to Noah, “I have decided to destroy all living creatures, for they have filled the earth with violence. Yes, I will wipe them all out along with the earth! ^{14a} Build a large boat...

Genesis 6:22²² So Noah did everything exactly as God had commanded him.

1. Risk my reputation

Genesis 7:1¹ When everything was ready, the LORD said to Noah, “Go into the boat with all your family, for among all the people of the earth, I can see that you alone are righteous.”

2. Run with resolution

Isaiah 50:7 Because the Sovereign LORD helps me, I will not be disgraced. Therefore, I have set my face like a stone, determined to do his will. And I know that I will not be put to shame.

Genesis 7:4-10⁴ Seven days from now I will make the rains pour down on the earth. And it will rain for forty days and forty nights, until I have wiped from the earth all the living things I have created.” ⁵ So Noah did everything as the LORD commanded him. ⁶ Noah was 600 years old when the flood covered the earth. ⁷ He went on board the boat to escape the flood—he and his wife and his sons and their wives. ⁸ With them were all the various kinds of animals—those approved for eating and for sacrifice and those that were not—along with all the birds and the small animals that scurry along the ground. ⁹ They entered the boat in pairs, male and female, just as God had commanded Noah. ¹⁰ After seven days, the waters of the flood came and covered the earth.

3. Rest in God’s reliability