

**Jesus Lived with Inspiring Courage**  
**Series: Luke**  
**October 22, 2017**                      **Pastor Bill Bump**

All of us desire to have the courage to cope with opposition.

Jesus was the most dynamic leader who ever lived, but He was under constant, ferocious attacks from His critics.

Luke recorded stories that show Jesus' courageous response to opposition.

1. Jesus had the courage to celebrate when others were too rigid.

*Luke 5:33 One day some people said to Jesus, "John the Baptist's disciples fast and pray regularly, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees. Why are your disciples always eating and drinking?"*

The Pharisees, a religious sect in Judaism, had reduced their faith to a rigid set of rules and regulations.

*Isaiah 58:3-4, 6-8<sup>3</sup> "We have fasted before you!" they say. "Why aren't you impressed? We have been very hard on ourselves, and you don't even notice it!"*

*"I will tell you why!" I respond. "It's because you are fasting to please yourselves. Even while you fast, you keep oppressing your workers. <sup>4</sup>What good is fasting when you keep on fighting and quarreling? This kind of fasting will never get you anywhere with me...*

*<sup>6</sup>"No, this is the kind of fasting I want: Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. <sup>7</sup>Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help.*

*<sup>8</sup>"Then your salvation will come like the dawn, and your wounds will quickly heal. Your godliness will lead you forward, and the glory of the Lord will protect you from behind."*

Jesus used an illustration to differentiate between the old Judaism and the new life one can experience in a personal relationship with Him.

Luke 5:34-35 <sup>34</sup> Jesus responded, "Do wedding guests fast while celebrating with the groom? Of course not. <sup>35</sup> But someday the groom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast."

For Jesus' disciples, His presence, His forgiveness, and their release from spiritual bondage made their joy like that of a wedding feast.

God wants more out of us than rigid traditions; He wants a joyous relationship.

2. Jesus had the courage to introduce change when others were inflexible.

Luke 5:36-39 <sup>36</sup> Then Jesus gave them this illustration: "No one tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and uses it to patch an old garment. For then the new garment would be ruined, and the new patch wouldn't even match the old garment.

<sup>37</sup> "And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. <sup>38</sup> New wine must be stored in new wineskins. <sup>39</sup> But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. 'The old is just fine,' they say."

Jesus told two parables about the necessity of change.

First, Jesus used a parable of patching old clothes to illustrate that the mix of old and new ruins both.

A second parable talked about new wine in old wineskins. The new is the life of Jesus poured into the sinner who had repented; now his life is full of newness, joy, and freedom. The old wine is legalism and tradition.

3. Jesus had the courage to put the well-being of a person before tradition.

Luke 6:1-11 <sup>1</sup> One Sabbath day as Jesus was walking through some grainfields, his disciples broke off heads of grain, rubbed off the husks in their hands, and ate the grain.

<sup>2</sup> But some Pharisees said, "Why are you breaking the law by harvesting grain on the Sabbath?"

<sup>3</sup> Jesus replied, "Haven't you read in the Scriptures what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup> He went into the house of God and broke the law by eating the sacred loaves of bread that only the priests can eat. He also gave some to his companions." <sup>5</sup> And Jesus added, "The Son of Man is Lord, even over the Sabbath."

<sup>6</sup> On another Sabbath day, a man with a deformed right hand was in the synagogue while Jesus was teaching. <sup>7</sup> The teachers of religious law and the Pharisees watched Jesus closely. If he healed the man's hand, they planned to accuse him of working on the Sabbath.

<sup>8</sup> But Jesus knew their thoughts. He said to the man with the deformed hand, "Come and stand in front of everyone." So the man came forward. <sup>9</sup> Then Jesus said to his critics, "I have a question for you. Does the law permit good deeds on the Sabbath, or is it a day for doing evil? Is this a day to save life or to destroy it?"

<sup>10</sup> He looked around at them one by one and then said to the man, "Hold out your hand." So the man held out his hand, and it was restored! <sup>11</sup> At this, the enemies of Jesus were wild with rage and began to discuss what to do with him.

Jesus is the One who created the Sabbath. He has authority over it.

Jesus courageously disregarded the consequences of breaking tradition and confronted His opponents.

Jesus confronted this openly because He wanted to illustrate that caring for people is more important than keeping manmade rules.

### Conclusion

What are the implications of this passage for the ministry of LFMC in 2017? We should be motivated to ask Jesus to give us eyes to notice the sick and hurting in our community, hearts to help them, and a willingness to share the good news of Jesus with them.