

Sunday – July 7, 2024 – Communion Sunday



“I've Got Your Back”
Acts 22:30- Acts 23:11

Sometimes there seems to be a fine line between courage and foolishness. We see first responders doing what we would classify as courageous things, and then we see others doing things they think are courageous, but in fact are not wise at all. Have I ever crossed that line? What does it take for me to have more courage in doing what I should in life?

KEY VERSE: “The following night the Lord stood near Paul and said, “Take courage!” As you have testified about me in Jerusalem, so you must also testify in Rome.” (Acts 23:11)

Paul is heading towards Jerusalem. He will face many stops along the way, but his course is in front of him. He is heading there to give a final testimony and then die. He has been told this by God, and reminded of this by the prophet Agabus. This will not be an easy journey, one in which he will need courage to complete. Courage is something God pours into his life, and ours as we walk with him.

I can have courage with God because.....

The _____ is true.

Read *Acts 23:1-6*.

My _____ is solid.

Read *1 Corinthians 15:1-14*.

How confident is Paul in the resurrection? How does Paul’s faith in the resurrection shape his life?

God has my _____.

Read *Acts 23:11*.

God _____ with me.

Here, God speaks directly to Paul and tells him to have courage. When has God spoken to you? How has he done so? How has that encouraged you?

Read *Isaiah 41:9-10*. How many times does God say, “I will” in this section? How can those promises give you courage?

Read *Psalms 23*. David says God will “walk through the valley of the shadow of death with me.” How does that assurance give me hope?

God _____ me with people.

Read *Acts 23:19-22*. God has placed Paul’s nephew in the right place at the right time. The commander, in response to the threat surrounds Paul with 200 soldiers.

Who has God placed around you to help you? What help have they provided? How does that give you courage to keep going?

This week:

- In my life, how am I encouraged that God has my back?
- How will I live differently knowing that God walks with me?
- Into whose life can I pour the courage of God?