

The Second Sunday in Lent

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Courageous in God's Eyes

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Whenever we witness or are told about an incredible act of courage, we celebrate and cheer the individual(s). But often as we do so, deep within us is a silent insistent voice telling us that we are NOT as strong or courageous! It is easy to assume that, unlike us, these heroes are gifted. Holy Scripture is full of heroes, people whom we think had incredible spiritual gifts that we mere mortals do not have. Or so we think.

The definition of courage is, “mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty.” If this is the case then we can breathe a sigh of relief because this definition expands our narrow understanding of who can be a hero and who is courageous. What we do not see in the media, nor does our inner critic consider, are those agonizing moments when you and I toss and turn questioning God, questioning our next steps, trying to rationalize and agonizing over whatever situation in which we find ourselves. Do we really think Abraham immediately started packing when God told him to leave his community? Did Nicodemus go to see Jesus that night because it was his only free evening? “No” to both questions. They had to face their doubts and fears and that took courage! The assurance from God we find in Psalm 121 reads like a mantra someone in ancient times repeated over and over in order to face their own fears, and to this day we continue to recite it in times of fear and doubt.

Friends you may not make the news but you ARE courageous! Do you remember times when you felt so alone, agonizing nights when the walls were the silent witnesses to your prayers, confusion, sense of hopelessness, and tears? What about those times when you dreaded making a certain call or having THAT conversation? It takes a whole lot of courage to be in a tough place and deal with hard decisions and circumstances. Abraham did not immediately call the moving company,

