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Monday of Holy Week

The Courage to Walk the Way of Love

by Scott Stoner

Jesus walked courageously to face his death in defense of the truth—the truth of the brokenness of the world, the truth of power that oppresses others, and the truth of God’s deep love for all creation.

— Jenifer Gamber

In yesterday’s reflection, Jenifer Gamber perfectly captured the contrast between walking the way of courage versus walking the way of cowardice. As she wrote, Jesus didn’t just *talk* about walking the way of courage. In the stories we retell this Holy Week, we remember that he *showed* us what it means to walk the way of courage.

And what is this way of courage? It is the way of love. It is the embodiment of the truth found in 1 John 4:18 that “love casts out fear.” Love is stronger than fear. Love is stronger than the brokenness of the world. Love is stronger than death.

While it is true that love casts out fear, it is also true that fear can cast out love. Who among us, in the midst of fear and anxiety, has not cast out love and said or done something hurtful to someone we love? As we have learned in this devotional, the commitment to practice courage does not mean we won’t ever experience fear. It means that in the face of fear, we will instead seek to respond with courage and love.

Making It Personal: Can you think of any times in your life when you experienced or witnessed both the power that love has to cast out fear, and the power that fear has to cast out love? Reread the quote above from Jenifer Gamber and notice what stands out for you.
