**Fortitude: The Call of Courage**

1. **WHAT IS COURAGE?**
   1. **Def.: *doing the right thing, even when you have strong feelings against it*.**
   2. Fortitude means you have fear, and fear means you have love
      1. What makes a man brave is that he is able to sacrifice a lesser good that he loves, for a greater good that he loves more
         1. That means if you don’t have the right set of priorities – and certainly if you don’t have any priorities – *you can’t be brave!*
   3. Two examples of courage: The Treasure in the Field and the Pearl of Great Price
2. **WHAT ARE YOU RISKING? WHAT ARE YOU VENTURING FOR CHRIST?**
   1. Thought-experiment : Your Last Moments
   2. If Christ has given everything for you, and you’ve risked *nothing* for Him, is that courageous? Is that admirable? Does that make you a man of character?
   3. What can you risk?
3. **FORTITUDE AND OUR TOP FEAR: PUBLIC WITNESS FOR CHRIST**
   1. What are we most afraid of? Saying awkward things.
   2. What has Christ called us to do? Proclaim the Gospel.

**Matthew 13:44-46: “The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.** **Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.** **When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.”**

**I Corinthians 15:19: “If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are the most pitiable people of all.”**

**Matthew 28: 18-20: “Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”**