

Courage **The Courage To Love**

From "Courageous" series by Wayne Murray

There Is An All Out War On Families In America

- What If I Told You That In The Next Five Weeks Your Family Relationships Will Improve Dramatically?
- What If I Told You That The Next Five Weeks Will Mark A Huge Turnaround For The Relationships At Your House?
- What If I Told You That In The Next Five Weeks Your Relationship With Your Children And Grandchildren Will Be Better And Stronger? That Your Marriage Relationship Will Improve And Every Family Unity Represented In This Room Will Undergo A Dramatic Transformation

Be That

- ❖ A Single Parent
- ❖ A Young Adult
- ❖ A Mom And A Dad
- ❖ A Grandparent

I Believe All Of That Can Happen And Will Happen In The Next Five Weeks.

We Begin A New Sermon Series Called Courageous

This Series Is Based On The Movie Courageous – Produced By Sherwood Pictures (Sherwood Baptist Church)...A Story About Five Men All In The Various Stages Of Fatherhood

In This Movie, They Learn To Deal With

- Divorce
- Fatherhood
- Forgiveness
- Integrity
- Tragedy
- And Family Relationships

It's Not Just A Series For Men – It's For Everyone

I Want To Encourage & Challenge You To Be Here Every Sunday Through Father's Day

We Are Going To Use Video Clips From The Movie To Illustrate Some Pretty Important Family Relationship Principles

- Love
- Integrity
- Leading
- Parenting
- Overcoming
- And Much More

In The Movie, A Dad (Corporal Adam Mitchell) Loses His Nine Year Old Daughter In A Tragic Accident.

You Are About To See Two Scenes From The Movie – The First Is Before She Dies

The Second Is After Some Time Has Passed After Her Death & The Emotional He Feels

. . . Watch This

Video Clips From Movie

❖ **Scene 7 – Dance With Me**

- Begin At . . . 23:00 Begin As Truck Pulls Up To The Curb
- End At . . . 24:42 End With But Be Sure To Include . . . *“Mr Fuddy Duddy’s Leaving.”*

❖ **Scene 20 – My Side Of The Dance**

- Begin At . . . 1:13:10
- End At . . . 1:16:15

If This Father Had Known That It Was His Last Chance To Dance With His Daughter, He Probably Would Not Have

- Cared What Other People Thought
- Cared About How Dumb He Looked
- Cared What Other People Thought

If This Father Had Known That It Was His Last Chance To Dance With His Daughter, He Would Have Had The Courage To Do His Side Of The Dance.

I Show These Clips To Remind You That It Takes Courage To

- Love Your Family
- Do What You Need To Do
- Say What You Need To Say

The Book Of **Ephesians** Is Probably The Book Of The Bible Where The Majority Of Instruction Comes For Specifically Dealing With Family Relationships.

It's A Good Read As We Focus On Family Relationships.

But Of The Entire Book Of Ephesians, There Is One Verse That If We All

- Obeyed
- Took To Heart
- Memorized
- And Followed Through On . . .

Would **Yield** An **Immediate** And **Dramatic** Transformation In All Your Family Relationships.

Pastor, Are You Saying Of The Thousands Of Verses In The Bible, If I Would Only Obey This **One** Verse It Would Change My Relationships?

Ephesians 4:29 "Do Not Let Any Unwholesome Talk Come Out Of Your Mouths, But Only What Is Helpful For Building Others Up According To Their Needs, That It May Benefit Those Who Listen."

Main Premise Of The Message: ***The Quality Of Your Family Relationships Will In Large Part Be Determined By The Quality Of Your Words***

If Each Of Us Would Determine To Not Say Things That Are

- ❖ Harmful
- ❖ Hurtful

If Each Of Us Would Determine To Say Things That Would

- ❖ Build Up
- ❖ Encourage

Then, There Would Be A Transformation

How Can We Do That?

God Can Give Us The Courage To Say What We Need To Say

What Do We Need To Say?

1. The Courage To Say **I Love You**

It Sounds So Simple **But** It Is So Important

We Learned So Much About Ourselves On September 11th, 2001.

Many Of The **Three** Thousand Victims Of 9-11 Never Had The Chance To Say Goodbye To The People They Loved.

But Some Of Them Did.

Some Of The Passengers On Flight 93 Had The Opportunity To Call Family Members From The Plane

They Knew They Were Going To Die So They Had The Courage To Say What They Needed To Say

They Didn't Call And Say

- ❖ I Wish You Would Take Care Of That Nasty Habit You Have
- ❖ Did You Take Out The Trash

They Said Things Like

- ❖ I Love You
- ❖ Take Care Of Yourself
- ❖ I Am Going To Miss You

Why

- ❖ Do We **Wait** To Say What We Need To Say?
- ❖ Does It Take Tragedies To Say "I Love You?"

Prov 16:24 "Pleasant Words Are . . . Health To The Bones."

There Was Once A Man Who Took Pride In Never Opening The Door For His Wife.

He Was Fond Of Saying, "She Doesn't Have Two Broken Arms, Let Her Open Her Own Door."

After Many Years Of Marriage, His Wife Died, And

He Was Heartbroken Because He Truly Loved Her.

As The Pallbearers Brought Her Casket Out Of The Funeral Services, Her Husband Reached The Hearse Ahead Of Them.

The Mortician Was Back A Few Feet And, Since He Knew The Husband Quite Well, He Called Him By Name And Said, "Open The Door For Her, Will You?"

The Man Reached For The Door Handle And Then, For One Second, Froze.

He Realized He Had **Never** Opened A Car Door For Her In His Life; Now, It Would Be The **First, Last, And Only Time**.

It Was A Moment When Great Regrets Came Crushing Down Upon Him.

God, Give Us The Courage To **Say**: “I Love You”

2. The Courage To Say I Forgive You

These Statements Will Transform Your Relationships

Learning To Say

- ❖ “I Forgive You”
- ❖ I Am Sorry, Please Forgive Me

There Is A Scene In The Movie Where A Man Grew Up Without His Father

He Finally Finds Out Who Is Father Is And Comes

Watch How He Comes To Terms With Forgiving Him

❖ **Scene 24- Choosing To Forgive**

- Begin At 1:24:24
- End At 1:26

At A Funeral Service For A Man

It Was A Very Tough Funeral Because He Had Died So Suddenly In His Sleep In The Middle Of The Night.

It Was Really Tough Because His Wife Said That The Night Of His Death, The Couple Had An Argument . . . And As A Result She Went Downstairs And Slept On The Couch.

For Some Reason She Went Back Upstairs In The Middle Of The Night And Found Him . . . She Never Had The Chance To Say I am Sorry.

They Never Had The Opportunity To Make It Right.

Life Is Too Short To Hang On To

- ❖ Anger & Regret
- ❖ Stuff That Doesn't Matter

Is It Any Wonder Paul Says ^{Ephesians 4:26} *"In Your Anger Do Not Sin": Do Not Let The Sun Go Down While You Are Still Angry."*

Our Culture Doesn't Help Us In This At All

Our Culture Tells Us To

- ❖ Say Whatever We Want, Whenever We Want
- ❖ Not Worry About What The Fall Out Will Be
- ❖ We Have Rights
- ❖ It Doesn't Matter Who We Hurt Or Offend

Our Culture Teaches Us To Be Easily Offended And Hurt One Another Due To Our Callousness

Friend, That It **Not** In The Bible.

The Bible Talks About

- ❖ Forgiveness
- ❖ Mercy
- ❖ Kindness

There Are Some Folks In The This Room That Your Family Relationships Will Dramatically Change If You Will Have The Courage To Say, "I'm Sorry. I Was Wrong."

Words Are Powerful . .

*Proverbs 12:18 (Gn) "Thoughtless Words Can Wound As Deeply As Any Sword, But Wisely Spoken Words Can **Heal**."*

God, Give Us The Courage To Say:

- ❖ I Was Wrong, Please Forgive Me
- ❖ I Am Sorry

3. The Courage To Say What I Want For You

In The Movie, There Are A Couple Of Clips Where The Dads Speak Into The Kids Lives What They Want For Them

Take A Look At This & See What I'm Talking About ...

❖ **Scene 25 – Finishing Well**

- Begin At 1:26:00
- End At 1:27:28

❖ Scene 30 - The Promise Ring

- Begin At 1:40:39
- End At 1:43:12

God Wants Us To Tell Our Family Members What We Want For Them

He Wants Us To

- Speak Blessings On One Another, Especially On Our Children
- Prophecy Life And Strength To Them...

The Bible Says, "The Power Of Life And Death Is In The Tongue."

In The Old Testament – The Concept Of Giving A Blessing (Verbally Spoken Words) A Big Deal

A. The **Priestly** Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26 *"The Lord Bless You And Keep You; The Lord Make His Face Shine On You And Be Gracious To You; The Lord Turn His Face Toward You And Give You Peace."*

- The Priests – Aaron And His Sons Would **Speak** This Blessing (*The Raising Of The Hands*)
- It Was Performed Daily . . .

How Powerful Is That?

- The Oldest Known Biblical Text To Have Been Found
- God Has Made Us Kings And Priests So We Should Pronounce The Priestly Blessing

B. The **Generational** Blessing

- Abraham Spoke A Blessing To Isaac
- Isaac Spoke A Blessing To His Son Jacob
- Jacob Spoke A Blessing To Each Of His Twelve Sons And To Two Of His Grandchildren.
- Paul Writes Eloquent Blessings To The Growing Churches In His Letters

God, Give Us The Courage To Say What We Want To Our Family Members

The **Five** Elements Of The Blessing (John Trent, Gary Smalley, The Blessing)

- Meaningful And Appropriate Touch
- A Spoken Message
- Attaching A High Value To The One Being Blessed
- Picturing A Special Future For Him Or Her
- An Active Commitment To Fulfill The Blessing

Why Baby Dedications Are So Important, Family Dedications Are So Important . . . Not Too Young Or Never Too Old To Do This. . . . Say What You Want For Them. . .

Why Is This So Hard?

We Live In A Cynical Culture Where This Kind Of Stuff Is Labeled As Cheesy

Listen, God Has Called Us To Speak Words Of Affirmation

In The Movie: A Big Part Of The Story Is How The Lack Of Affirmation From Family Members, Especially Fathers – Played A Big Role In Their Lives And The Choices They Made. . .

If You Want To See Your Family Transformed, You Need To Give The Gift Of Words **Lavishly** And **Freely**

Powerful **Blessing** Words Or Phrases

- *I Love You*
- *You Are Important To Me*
- *God Made You Special*
- *I Thank God For You*
- *I Am Sorry*
- *I Will Always Be Here For You*
- *No One Else Is Like You In All The World*

Ideas

- ❖ Write A Letter
- ❖ Make A Plaque
- ❖ Send A Fb Message
- ❖ Twitter

Your

- ❖ Spouse Should Never Wonder How You Feel About Them
- ❖ Kids Should Never Wonder How You Feel About Them

4. The Courage To Say I Will Be There For You

You Can Count On Me

The Movie Concludes With This Resolution These Men Sign & A Ceremony That They Take Part In

Here's The Clip For You

❖ **Scene 22 - The Resolution**

- Begin At 1:18:24
- End At 1:22:20

Words Are Powerful

- Spoken Words Are Powerful –
- Spoken Blessings Are Powerful.

But This One Is On A Little Bit Of A Different Level.

In A World Gone Crazy, This Is A Big Deal

Here Is What The Resolution Says (Read It Together)

Why Don't We

- **Say What We Need To Say**
- **Do What We Need To Do?**

1. Too Busy

Too Busy

- Working
- Running Around
- Doing Sports
- Cheerleading
- Band
- Show Choir
- Whatever Else
- Going To This Or That Or The Other.

We Are Always In A Hurry And The **Result Is We Are Missing The Moments That Make Life What It Is.**

In The Movie This Is Illustrated Powerfully When The Main Character Does Not Take The Time To Dance With His Daughter.

Many Men Take More Time Watching TV And Surfing The Internet Than They Do In Meaningful Conversations With Their Children Or Family

Every Hour A Man Is Focused On His TV Screen Or Computer Monitor Or Phone, He Is Not Looking Into The Faces And Speaking Into The Lives Of His Kids.

The TV Is A Lousy Father And Mother

Determine To

- Do The Dance
- Act Silly
- Take Time To Play
- Sing A Stupid Song
- Play A Stupid Game

2. **Too Scared**

Afraid We Will Be

- ❖ Rejected
- ❖ Embarrassed
- ❖ Not Returned

This Is Why We Need Courage

3. **Too Prideful**

This Is The Worse Reason Possible, But Very Real.

We Have Too Much Pride To Say What We Need To Say

- I Am Not A Sensitive Person
- I Am Not Used To That

I Have 2 Words For You – **Change It**

Geico Commerical With The Former Drill Sergeant As A Therapist

“Maybe We Should Just Wonder Over To Mamby Pamby Land You Jackwagon”

Don't Live A Life Of Regret

Simple Yet Powerful Principle

- Say What You Need To Say
- Do What You Need To Do

Conclusion:

The Goal Of Preaching Is Not Information But Its Transformation

- **What** Do You Need To Say To A Member Of Your Family?
 - I Love You
 - I'm Sorry
 - I Need You
 - Please Forgive Me
 - I Will Be There For You
- **When** Will You Say It?
- **How** Will You Say It?