



Day 3: COURAGE TO LEAD

Scripture Reading:

Joshua 1:1-18 (ESV)

Observation:

It was 1940 and World War II was underway. The concentration camp at Auschwitz was imprisoning men and woman at an alarming rate. Read the following account:

There are very few places that can accurately be described as hell on Earth. One of these is the Auschwitz concentration camp during World War II, where as many as 1.5 million people died during the five years the camp was in operation.

The Polish resistance had been hearing horrific first- or second-hand accounts about the conditions inside Auschwitz. These early accounts came primarily from released prisoners, but also from casual observers like railway employees and residents of the nearby village of Oswiecim. The resistance decided they needed someone on the inside.

It is into this environment that Witold Pilecki, a 39-year old veteran of the Polish-Soviet War of 1919-1921 who fought against the initial Nazi invasion and a member of the Polish resistance, volunteered himself in 1940. Pilecki's mission was to allow himself to be arrested and, once inside Auschwitz, to collect intelligence for the Polish resistance in the country and the government-in-exile in London, and to organize a resistance from inside the camp.

After several decades of silence and ostracism regarding his father, Andrzej Pilecki is grateful for the posthumous recognition he has been receiving during the past twenty years.¹

¹ David de Sola, "The Man Who Volunteered for Auschwitz," The Atlantic, October 5, 2012, <https://www.theatlantic.com/international/archive/2012/10/the-man-who-volunteered-for-auschwitz/263083/> (Accessed October 16, 2017)

Joshua was a young man who was called to lead the Israelites into the Promise Land, after following Moses for years, it was his time to step into where God called him. In the scripture reading, we read the word that God spoke to Joshua as he was to begin his courage to lead. Both men had to be fearful of what laid ahead, and yet, they stepped out with the courage to lead.

Application:

- What is holding you back from having the courage to lead?
- How does fear keep you from stepping into a leadership role?
- Where does Joshua find the strength to be courageous?
- What and where is God asking you to have the courage to lead?

TOM SEMBER has been involved in ministering to men for over 20 years. He is an ordained minister with the AG in the NY Ministry Network. Tom lives with his wife, Carolyn, and children in New York. You can connect with Tom on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn