

Step Out of the Crowd

The Courage to Lead with Faith

Matthew 4:25 (NIV®)

Large crowds from Galilee, the Decapolis, Jerusalem, Judea and the region across the Jordan followed him.

Matthew 21:45–46 (NIV®)

⁴⁵ When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard Jesus' parables, they knew he was talking about them. ⁴⁶ They looked for a way to arrest him, but **they were afraid of the crowd** because the people held that he was a prophet.

I. Willing to Stand Apart

Matthew 7:13–14 (NIV®)

¹³ "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

Luke 13:22–30 (NIV®)

²² Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?" He said to them, ²⁴ **"Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to."** ²⁵ Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' "But he will answer, 'I don't know you or where you come from.' ²⁶ "Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷ "But he will reply, 'I don't know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!' ²⁸ "There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. ²⁹ People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last."

II. They Stepped Out of the Crowd

A. The Courage to Act

Luke 8:42–48 (NIV®)

⁴² As Jesus was on his way, **the crowds almost crushed him.** ⁴³ And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years, but no one could heal her. ⁴⁴ **She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak,** and immediately her bleeding stopped. ⁴⁵ "Who touched me?" Jesus asked. When they all denied it, Peter said, "Master, the people are crowding and pressing against you." ⁴⁶ But Jesus said, "Someone touched me; I know that power has gone out from me." ⁴⁷ Then the woman, seeing that she could not go unnoticed, came trembling and fell at his feet. In the presence of all the people, she told why she had touched him and how she had been instantly healed. ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace."

B. The Courage to Display Humility

Luke 7:1–10 (NIV®)

¹ When Jesus had finished saying all this in the hearing of the people, he entered Capernaum. ² There a centurion's servant, whom his master valued highly, was sick and about to die. ³ The centurion heard of Jesus and sent some elders of the Jews to him, asking him to come and heal his servant. ⁴ When they came to Jesus, they pleaded earnestly with him, "This man deserves to have you do this," ⁵ because he loves our nation

and has built our synagogue.”⁶ So Jesus went with them. He was not far from the house when the centurion sent friends to say to him: “Lord, don’t trouble yourself, for **I do not deserve to have you come under my roof.**”⁷ That is why I did not even consider myself worthy to come to you. But say the word, and my servant will be healed.⁸ For I myself am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. I tell this one, ‘Go,’ and he goes; and that one, ‘Come,’ and he comes. I say to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.”⁹ When Jesus heard this, he was amazed at him, and turning to the crowd following him, he said, “I tell you, I have not found such great faith even in Israel.”¹⁰ Then the men who had been sent returned to the house and found the servant well.

C. The Courage to Confront the Mob

Acts 5:27–35 (NIV®)

²⁷ Having brought the apostles, they made them appear before the Sanhedrin to be questioned by the high priest. ²⁸ “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name,” he said. “Yet you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and are determined to make us guilty of this man’s blood.”

²⁹ Peter and the other apostles replied: “We must obey God rather than men! ³⁰ The God of our fathers raised Jesus from the dead—whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. ³¹ God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior that he might give repentance and forgiveness of sins to Israel. ³² We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.”

³³ When they heard this, they were furious and wanted to put them to death. ³⁴ But a Pharisee named Gamaliel, a teacher of the law, who was honored by all the people, stood up in the Sanhedrin and ordered that the men be put outside for a little while. ³⁵ Then **he addressed them: “Men of Israel, consider carefully what you intend to do to these men.”**

III. Application: Let’s Pray 201

Health

Lord, give us Your strength for this day. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Worry

Father, may Your peace fill our hearts and minds today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Problems

Father, give us Your wisdom today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Discouragement

Lord, fill us with joy and hope as we move through our day. Amen.

Loneliness

Father, send Your angels to stand beside us today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Heaviness

Father, lift the spirit of despair and bring Your hope to us today. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Weariness

Father, help carry our burden through this day; give us a sense of Your rest. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Prayer

Heavenly Father,

Give us a spirit of prayer and intercession. Open our hearts to the reality of Your Kingdom and purposes. Give us boldness as we live for You. Manifest Your glory in our midst that others may see the majesty and glory of our God. May Your name be praised and Your purposes break forth in this generation. In Jesus’ name, amen.