Virtue

2 Pet. 1:5
Introduction

• The word virtue has basically two different meanings
  • 1. Moral excellence
  • Phil. 4:8
  • 2 Pet. 1:3
2. In 2 Pet. 1:5 Virtue means “moral or spiritual courage”

“Moral courage, the natural fruit of a trusting faith in God.” B.W. Johnson

“Manliness in the Christian sense is the kind introduced by Jesus Christ.” James Meadows
Introduction

- Moral and spiritual courage comes into one’s life through faith
- Virtue is faiths first test
- “Possessing virtue the Christian can then add the other great Christ-like characteristics.”
Some Who Did Not Show Moral Courage

- Peter and Mark are two men who at one point lacked moral courage and latter showed they had it.
- Peter denied Jesus three times.
- Peter later showed great courage.
Some Who Did Not Show Moral Courage

- John Mark turned back on a missionary journey
- Acts 13:13
- 2 Tim. 4:11
Some Who Did Have Moral Courage

- Joseph
- Moses
- Heb. 11:23-27
- Joshua and Caleb
- David—fought a lion, a bear and a giant
Some Who Did Have Moral Courage

- The greatest example of moral courage was that of Jesus himself.
- He had the moral courage to lay down his life and this he did willingly.
- He trusted in God the Father for the outcome.
- Heb. 2:13 “I will put my trust in him”
Lessons For US

- Moral courage is not acting without fear but in spite of it.
- Among the forms of courage, virtue is different because it is brought about by our trust in God.
Lessons For US

• We can develop courage to the point that we courageously face that which we fear----virtue is a growing thing!
Lessons For US

• We grow in virtue by:
• 1. Letting our faith grow
• 2. By doing what God commands us
to do regardless of the consequences
• 3. By consistent prayer to the Father
Lessons For US

• Christ challenges every Christian today to add to his faith moral courage
• The Christian business man can be courageous by being honest and truthful
Lessons For US

- The Christian young person needs moral courage to stand up against peer pressure—drug, sex, alcohol,
- The Christian wife and mother must have courage to stand up for what is right
Lessons For US

• The Christian husband and father must have courage to lead the family in worship and service to God
• The preacher must have moral courage to preach the Truth, regardless of the consequences
• Elders must have moral courage in shepherding the flock
Conclusion

- If we desire to grow as Christians, we must seek God’s help in growing in moral courage
- Let us add to our faith, virtue...