

No. 16 "Take Courage! I Have Conquered the World"

JESUS—A PERFECT MODEL OF COURAGE (11 min.)

Although the Bible contains many examples of courage, the superlative example is that of Jesus

Jesus is a perfect model for us [Read 1 Peter 2:21, 22]

Jesus showed courage by fulfilling challenging assignments

He willingly left the comfort of his heavenly position in order to become human and 'hand himself over for us' (Ga 2:20)

When soldiers came to arrest him, he stepped forward to identify himself and to protect his disciples (Joh 18:1-8)

We imitate Jesus' courage when we accept challenging assignments or leave our comfort zone to expand our ministry

Jesus showed courage by bearing witness about the truth

When just a boy, he spoke with respected teachers at the temple,

"asking them questions" (Lu 2:41-47; w15 2/15 11 ¶4)

During his ministry, he exposed the religious leaders for their wrong teachings and bad example (Mt 15:1-6; 23:23, 24)

We need courage to tell the good news and to teach Bible truths that contradict widely accepted or cherished beliefs

Youths need courage to give a witness to schoolmates

Jesus showed courage by upholding Jehovah's righteous standards

He firmly rejected the Devil's temptations (Mt 4:2-10)

Jesus did more than passively avoid sin; he took decisive action to reject it (Joh 2:14-17)

We need courage to be no part of this wicked world; we thus incur its hatred (Joh 15:19; w93 7/1 5-6 ¶2-4)

We need courage to urge a friend who has engaged in unscriptural conduct to get help (w11 1/15 28-29 ¶10-11)

WE CAN CONQUER THE WORLD AND ITS RULER, AS JESUS DID (6 min.)

Jesus truly conquered the world [Read John 16:33]

He never yielded to the world's influence; rather, he triumphed over the world by not becoming like it in any respect

Is it possible for imperfect humans to conquer the world as Jesus did?

Jesus' exhortation to "take courage" indicates that we can imitate his example

Jesus showed courage, not because he was a perfect man, but because of his love for Jehovah and fellow humans (Joh 14:31; 15:13; w06 10/1 21 ¶2-3)

Jesus also trusted in his heavenly Father for support (Joh 16:32)

It is therefore not beyond our ability to imitate Jesus' example

We must cultivate love for and faith in Jehovah (w15 10/15 10-11 ¶6-10; w09 12/15 25 ¶4-5)

EVERLASTING LIFE AWAITS ALL WHO CONQUER THE WORLD (2 min.)

Anointed Christians will figuratively "eat of the tree of life" (Re 2:7; re 36-37 ¶13-15)

Those of the great crowd will be preserved alive when this wicked world passes away (1Jo 2:17)

You and I can be world conquerors but only if we imitate Jesus and "take courage!"

TO BE COVERED IN 19 MINUTES