

No. 29      Imitate, Not the Cowards, But the Courageous! (Symposium)  
              -Not Urijah, But Jeremiah

[PLEASE NOTE: This talk includes a video]

URIJAH WAS OVERCOME BY FEAR (2 min.)

"With words like those of Jeremiah," Urijah prophesied against Judah during the reign of wicked King Jehoiakim (Jer 26:20; jr 122 ¶18) When Jehoiakim sought to put Urijah to death, Urijah abandoned his assignment and fled to Egypt

Jehoiakim sent men to Egypt, brought Urijah back to Jerusalem, and put him to death [Read Jeremiah 26:21-23]

At times, it is the course of wisdom to flee from persecution; however, Urijah fled because he allowed fear of man to control his actions (Pr 29:25; Mt 10:23)

He quit doing God's will and thus lost God's protection (w09 12/1 25 ¶2-3)

OVERCOME FEAR OF MAN WITH PROPER FEAR OF JEHOVAH (3 min.)

Jeremiah himself struggled with fear (Jer 1:6; 20:7, 9)

Imagine how he felt on hearing of Urijah's brutal murder at the hand of the king!

When Jeremiah's own life was threatened, what helped him not to be overcome by fear? (Jer 26:8; 36:26)

He likely meditated on God's power as seen in His dealings with Israel

Jeremiah came to view Jehovah as "a fearsome warrior" who was able to rescue him [Read Jeremiah 20:11, 13]

Jeremiah trusted in God and saw how Jehovah never failed him

This led to profound reverence, deep respect, and a healthy fear of Jehovah (w89 1/1 29 ¶5; it-1 818)

Jeremiah developed such a reputation for courage that some took

Jesus to be Jeremiah returned to life (Mt 16:13, 14)

What is the lesson? Proper fear of Jehovah helps us have the courage to overcome improper fear of man

In the following dramatization, take note of how two young Witnesses deal with fear of man

VIDEO (2 min.)

WHAT DO WE LEARN FROM URIJAH AND JEREMIAH? (1 min.)

Courage is not inherent; it must be cultivated

It is strengthened by reverence for our almighty God

We strengthen our courage when we deepen our spirituality

May we show that we feel as did the psalmist, who said: "Jehovah is my light and my salvation. Whom should I fear?" (Ps 27:1)

Brother \_\_\_\_\_ will now present the final part of this symposium, "Imitate, Not the Cowards, But the Courageous!-Not the Rich Young Ruler, But Paul"

TO BE COVERED IN 8 MINUTES

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