

COURAGE TO TAKE A STAND



WARM UP

"Be strong, stand firm; be fearless be dauntless and set to work."

1 Chronicles 28:20

When Honorius was Emperor of Rome in about the year AD 400, the great Coliseum of Rome was often filled to overflowing with spectators. These had come from far and near to view the great games. Part of the sport consisted in watching as human beings battled with wild beasts or against one another until one or the other was killed. These days were often public holidays. One day a Syrian monk, Telemachus, was torn by the utter disregard for the value of human life so he leaped into the arena in the midst of a gladiatorial show and cried out. "This thing is not right! This thing must stop!" Because he had interrupted the games the authorities commanded that Telemachus be run through with a sword, which was done. Thus he died. But in dying he kindled a flame in the hearts and consciences of thinking men. History records that within a few months, gladiatorial combats began to decline and very shortly passed from history.



READ 1 Chronicles 28



QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe courage?

2. As Christian men, what is our source of courage and how can we obtain it?

BACKGROUND

The aged King David is forced to hand over his reign to Solomon, the son of his affair with Bathsheba, rather than to his preferred son Absalom, who was now dead. In this passage David is instructing Solomon concerning the qualities he must have if he is to be sustained in his future duty.

3. As Christian men, how can we give one another the courage to stand up for what is right and noble?

4. What are some of the times that you have felt daunted by the need to speak out about things that were wrong?

CONSIDER THIS

The motto of the French Foreign Legion is, "If I falter, push me on. If I stumble, pick me up. If I retreat, shoot me".



WRAP UP

One of the greatest sources of courage is the encouragement that we as men can give to one another. Make a commitment to do this for one another for the rest of your lives.



IT'S TIME FOR PRAYER

MY RESPONSE AS A PROMISE KEEPER

I will in future have the courage to speak for what is right no matter what the cost.

I will encourage my fellow Christian men as they make a stand for Christ.

