

SERMON NOTES

SERIES: **Acts: To Be Continued**
TITLE: **Take Courage**
DATE: April 3, 2016
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In Acts, Luke shows Jesus' friends continuing the kingdom mission that Jesus started in his earthly life and ministry. The Book of Acts is all about Jesus' followers continuing his mission in the world. We are the ones God has entrusted with carrying the message of Jesus forward. **Today, we look at Acts 22:22 - 23:11.** In this passage, we learn that we always have what it takes to move forward when we find our identity in our heavenly citizenship.

In last week's Easter message, we were reminded that Jesus' resurrection is what kept Christianity moving forward. The Book of Acts is an account of how the mission of Jesus continues to move forward, despite resistance.

The idea of moving forward always seems to come with challenges. It can be rewarding and energizing to move forward, but it can also be painful and exhausting. When we try to move forward, we tend to ask ourselves the question, "*Do I have what it takes?*".

Do I have what it takes...

- To lead my family even when it isn't convenient?
- To serve my spouse and work on our marriage?
- To face the reality of the doctor's report?
- To forgive the person who wronged me?
- To confront my boss about his integrity?
- To admit my sin and ask for help?

This question raises these three *qualifiers*, which we see in this passage:

1. Who am I?
2. Who is judging my performance?
3. What is the verdict?

“With every form of identity and every other badge of accolade we might award ourselves, it is always the case of a verdict coming from performance. We might find security in labeling ourselves a good person, a free person, a religious person or a moral person. Whatever it is, it is always the same the performance leads to the verdict. But the verdict never comes.”

- Tim Keller, *“The Freedom of Self Forgetfulness”*

The Gospel has what it takes to move you forward.

For Discussion:

1. When it comes to your identity, how do you define it? Do you look at your behavior and performance, or do you look to Jesus?
2. Have you ever asked yourself if you “have what it takes” to move forward in a particular area of your life?
3. How can you apply the truths of Gospel to help you move forward?