

Bucket Talk – Strong & Courageous

Bible Verses

Joshua 1:9 "Have I not commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go".

Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me".

One courageous act that changed history.



On April 15th, Major League Baseball will once again celebrate Jackie Robinson Day. On that date back in 1947, Jackie Robinson made his Major League Debut with the Brooklyn Dodgers. This marked the first day that an Afro-American ballplayer wore a uniform as a member of a Major League Baseball team.

This was not only a significant and historical event, it was an act of courage. America was still a segregated country. Meaning that people of color were not treated as equals. Non-whites were not welcome to dine in all restaurants. There were separate water fountains and bathrooms for "colored" people to use. Public education was divided into exclusively white and non-white schools. There was also a separate professional Negro Baseball League for African-American ballplayers.

But through one courageous act, Jackie Robinson changed all that. Jackie Robinson took the field on April 15, 1957 with the knowledge that many people including some of his own teammates did not want him to play for the Dodgers. He was verbally harassed by fans, opposing coaches and other players. Jackie's property was vandalized. He was sent hate mail and received death threats throughout his entire career. In spite of all these difficulties, Jackie Robinson had an inner strength that stood up for what was right in the face of his difficulty. His courage opened the door for African-American ballplayers such as Hank Aaron, Satchel Paige, Ernie Banks, Rickey Henderson and Jason Heyward to use their God given abilities for His Glory.

Are there any fears that discourage you from achieving using your talents to the best of your ability and glorify God in the process? The Bible tells a story about a man named Joshua who was about to face a difficulty far greater than what he thought that he and his army could tackle. God told Joshua after the death of Moses that now Joshua was to be the one to lead the people across the Jordan River into the promised land and fight a strong and aggressive army. But God also told him not to be fearful or discouraged. Instead, Joshua was to be strong and courageous because God would be with Joshua wherever he went. That promise became Joshua's strength as he and his army crossed the Jordan and faced their aggressor.

Thirteen hundred years later, the Apostle Paul, an early follower of Jesus who was persecuted, tortured and imprisoned because of his faith in Christ said that "he could to all things through Christ who strengthens him". Inner-strength comes from the Lord. God promises that when we are weak, He will make us strong. Therefore, when you encounter a difficulty, remember that you don't have to face it alone. Jesus Christ is with you always. He will help you and He will strengthen you. Don't just rely upon your wisdom, your skills and your strength when facing challenges. **Invite Jesus to strengthen and empower you!**

