



# COURAGE

Friday, April 14 | 2 Timothy 1:6-14

In December 2012, a young teacher named Victoria Soto hid her students in a closet to protect them from a gunman who was terrorizing her school in Newtown, Connecticut. When the gunman entered her classroom, she told him her students were in the gym, but the frightened students ran from the closet and the gunman started shooting. The young teacher threw herself in front of the children and was killed.

Paul is once again in a Roman Prison, his death seems certain but his soul courageously looks beyond his circumstances to express his concern and love for the churches and specifically for his young protégée Timothy.

Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday knowing that "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord" would soon be replaced with "Crucify him!" He knew the future and the long suffering he would endure, but out of love for us he courageously moved towards the cross and his own death.

Most of us will never have to face such danger. For most of us, the courage we need is to say I will love, I will forgive or I will try again tomorrow when we really want to run away. Courage is the assurance that when you feel you can't, God says, "Yes you can. For the Spirit I gave you does not make you timid, but gives you power, love and self-discipline."

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus Christ who takes away the sins of the world, you did not give me a spirit of fear, so pour your Spirit of love, power and self-discipline over my heart, mind and soul. In Jesus name, Amen.

Written by Pastor Rick Owen