

Gladiator

Maximus as a type of Christ:

He went from the highest office--general--down to lowest: slave, and did his greatest work as a slave.

He was beloved by the emperor (type of Heavenly Father), and there was a jealous one (Lucifer/Commodus) who wanted to inherit the Father's throne, and at one point thought he did so. Commodus was jealous of the glory that Maximus bore; that Jesus bears, Glory that we bear as we are made in the image of Him.

Commodus thought he had Maximus (Jesus) where he wanted Him, by wounding him, but Maximus defeated him.

Main theme: Courage

Maximus was courageous. He was brave. He was bold.

Courage means knowing God is on our side in times of trouble:

Psalms 138:3 "When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted."

Joshua 1:9 "For the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest"

Boldness means strengthening:

Psalms 138:3 "In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst[7292-to urge severely; to overcome] me with strength[5797-boldness; might;power] in my soul.

Proverbs 28: "The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold[982] as a lion." -- 982 means not only to be confident, but to trust; related word, 983, means a place of refuge.

Compare courage to fear:

Fear is evidence of lack of faith:

Mark 4:40 "And He said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? How is it that ye have no faith?"

Revelation 21:8a "But the fearful, and unbelieving, . . ."

Fear does not come from God:

Luke 2:10 "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

2 Timothy 1:7a "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear ..."

1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."

Avoid the fear of man by focusing on God:

Hebrews 11:27 "By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible."

Hebrews 13:6 "So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."

Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Fear of man can cause us to ignore spiritual truths:

Galatians 2:12 "For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision."

Fear = bondage:

Romans 8:15 "For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father."

Hebrews 2:15 "And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."

Enough about fear, what about courage?

Examples of boldness/courage/bravery:

The lost get boldness to overcome the fear that keeps them from finding God:

Mark 15:43 "Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly[5111, which comes from 5056, which means to set out for a definite point or goal] to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body." WWJD?

***Although many examples of godly boldness can be found in Scripture (David facing Goliath; Moses facing Pharaoh, etc.), our ultimate example of boldness is Jesus willing to die on Cross; it had to take supernatural courage to do that.

Even though His human side may have been a little apprehensive, He knew: 1. It would be worth it (He's better off doing it than not) and 2. the uncomfortable part is temporary, but the fruit is permanent.

Boldness in speech to others about God:

Ephesians 6:19 "And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. "

Acts 4:29, 31 "Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. . . . After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."

Acts 9:28 "So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord.

When we show courage, God enables or empowers us; the word 'grace' itself means empowerment:

Acts 14:3 "So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to do miraculous signs and wonders."

2 Corinthians 3:12 "Therefore, since we have such a hope, we are very bold [2954 - plainness of speech]

Call to Action

What about us, in Texas, in 2008?

In our case, God still calls us to show courage. Here are some examples of how He might expect us to show courage:

1. sharing our faith with our dad who intimidates us, who we don't want to reject us
 2. confessing to our wife that secret sin
 3. confronting a good friend about his sin, or the way he treats his kids, or the fact that he works too many hours, or how he's doing something unethical
 4. telling your boss you won't take on that promotion if it's going to mean longer hours
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Other themes:

The Father Wound:

Conversation between Commodus and his father (Caesar) gives us two topics:

(1)the father's focus on what was not important in his life has led to Commodus being the way he is; (2) The son's wound of not being able to live up to father's expectations; trying to hear "you've got what it takes" from his father.

Caesar: "I am dying. When a man sees his end, he wants to know there was some purpose to his life. "

He realizes he has pursued things that were not worth anything. (Wood, hay, stubble.--see 1 Corinthinans ch. 3)

In the following dialog, he (Caesar) is confronted with the truth when Commodus pours out to him:

"You said there are 4 chief virtues :wisdom, justice, fortitude, temperance. I don't have these. I have other virtues, but they weren't on your list. It was as if you didn't want me for your son. I search for

ways to please you, to make you proud. One kind word, one full hug would have been like the sun on my heart for a thousand years. All I've ever wanted was to live up to you."

Caesar: "Your faults as a son were my failure as a father."

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Interesting quotes from the movie, which could lead to good, spiritual conversations:

1. "What we do in life echoes in eternity" --from the opening battle scene
2. "There's no one left to fight? No, there's always someone to fight."