

THE GOOD NEWS GAZETTE

THINK ON THESE THINGS...

GUTS AND GLORY: ARE THEY YOURS?

Most news stories are negative. My mission is to think on and encourage others to read and seek out stories that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. (Philippians 4:8-9) As I looked at recent news stories, I found several stories of courage, kindness, and compassion. Two teachers from south Louisiana worked together to help save hundreds in a crowded movie theater as a lone gunman began shooting. In Florida, hundreds of strangers searched by land, air, and sea for two lost teenage boys. The time, money and energy expended by so many was massive. I read stories of police officers all across our country who risked their lives to save, defend and serve. There are many good news stories of courage, tenacity, kindness, and love. The story I'd like to highlight in this article involves a member of our United States Coast Guard.

Petty Officer Darren Harrity began an interesting day when lowered into the Pacific ocean by his Coast Guard helicopter early on Tuesday, July 21, 2015. An emergency call to rescue four fishermen from a 52 foot fishing boat came in around 1:40 AM. The boat had run aground near Cape Blanco, Oregon. Once on scene, an issue with the helicopter's hoist, nearby cliffs and heavy winds, precluded the helicopter from air lifting the fishermen from their life raft. The best solution available and the decision made that dark Tuesday

morning required Darren to swim each man individually to safety. It was reported that once the decision was made, Darren said something like - Okay, we have to swim to shore. Who wants to go first?

In the book *Lions Don't Need to Roar* by D. A. Benton, a portion in chapter nineteen discusses people who have guts. Guts, intestinal fortitude, backbone, pluck, spirit, courage, determination, and audacity all describe what Darren was called on to display in order to rescue the fishermen. We also make daily choices that require us to have guts. There are many times when we are called on to do things that are difficult and challenging. More often than not, we deal with everyday common events.



Photo by the U S Coast Guard

These things require guts as well. There are times when just getting out of bed requires not only guts but what we perceive as the strength of Hercules. Resisting an extra cookie or dessert when trying to diet can require substantial intestinal fortitude - pardon the pun. Exercising when you feel all wrung out from a tough day at work, can require as much determination as that of a firefighter rescuing someone from a burning building. Dealing with that difficult customer or rude client can tax one's spirit and will to be nice. There are days when small issues appear as insurmountable as Mount Everest. There are days for all of us when life is just plain hard.

What characterizes people who have guts? In Benton's book, she lists seven things that characterize people with guts.

1. They initiate. These people don't stand on the sidelines of life. They get in the game.
2. They act. They participate fully in what needs to be done.
3. They persevere. They keep pushing ahead for the goal.
4. They endure. People with guts don't quit because things are difficult. They commit for the long haul - however long the haul may be.
5. People with guts are willing to take chances. They know you can't always play it safe. There is reward with risk, and they know there are no rewards without taking risks.
6. Those with guts risk failure. They know that the outcomes of their decisions may not be successful, but they try anyway. They accept the consequences of their actions whether they succeed or fail.
7. Lastly and I think most importantly, people with guts will try again or try something else when they fail. This characteristic refers back to the third item, perseverance. People with guts will 'keep on keeping on.' They just don't give up or

quit trying. They have an optimism about them that knows there is a solution out there and a good one at that.

There have been times in my life when people have encouraged me to quit. They wanted me to stop trying to find a solution. They said that they didn't want to see me hurt. They got tired of watching my struggle. They wanted me to quit trying to reconcile relationships with difficult and demanding people. They said it was no use. They said there were no good answers. They wanted me to take the easy way (society's way) out of my problems. They said, no one could blame me. They said, I was fully within my rights to quit. They said no one really cared if I succeeded or not. I know some of you, like me, have encountered some of the same advice from your close friends and family.

What would have happened had Darren said, I can swim one or two of you to shore but not all four. Who shall we leave behind? What if he'd told his commander that he wouldn't help unless he had someone else to help him? What if he had said to the four stranded men, I'm sure sorry you're in this situation, but my hoist is broken. You guys are on your own. Good luck getting to shore. I'll be cheering for you.

How about you and me? Do we make excuses in the difficult and challenging situations in which we find ourselves? How do we respond when people need our help? Do we initiate a solution when the odds are less than favorable? Do we have the guts to do what is best for others in spite of how we are affected? Would we risk our lives for strangers? Do we have the backbone and courage to do what is right when the whole world seems bent on doing wrong? Do we just go along to get along? Do we have the audacity to walk against the crowd on the narrow path?

For those that follow Christ, the Bible gives us standards and instructions on how

to live. In Galatians 6:9 (NIV) Paul says, "Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up." God doesn't want us to get tired of doing good. He wants us to persevere. James reinforces Paul's message by saying, "Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers." James 1:12 (NIV) This means we are to use our opportunities to get in the game. Christians also have special obligations to those in the family of believers. In James 2:14 we read, "What good is it brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him? Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you says to him, 'Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,' but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead." Wow! What a powerful and sobering message.

Darren swam 250 yards in the dark with five foot waves and rip tides to the beach without any auxiliary floatation devices. He then swam the 250 yards back to the life boat. He did this four times in a row to save strangers in need. To get perspective on the distance he swam, remember that a football field is 100 yards long. In cold, fuel laden, dangerous waters, he swam over a mile that day. That's the length of 25 football fields. Because of Darren's decisions, determination and strength, four men were

saved from danger and probable death. Coast Guard spokesman, David Mosley, was reported to say that Darren put forth a heroic effort that day. I agree. It is also good news for me and all who are encouraged by this story. I'm thankful that there are still people throughout our society with the desire, courage, and guts to risk their lives for their fellow men.

Let's review. People with guts get in the game. People with guts develop a plan of action. People with guts persevere. People with guts endure. They don't quit trying. People with guts are willing to fail. People with guts live their life with a determined spirits of hope and optimism. Like Darren, let's be people with the guts, to do what needs to be done and to go for the eternal glory promised to those that seek and serve the one true and living God.

Think on these things...



Robin Robbins House

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power." Ephesians 6:10

What Does the Bible Say?

What tradition of the elders did the Pharisees and teachers of the law accuse Jesus and his disciples of breaking?

What command of God did Jesus accuse the Pharisees and teacher of breaking?

What is the penalty of cursing one's father or mother?

What did Jesus accuse the Pharisees and teachers of the law of nullifying?

What name did Jesus call the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

What did Isaiah prophesy about the Pharisees and teachers of the law?

What makes a man unclean?

What plants did Jesus say would be pulled up, and what did Jesus mean by this statement?

Who asked Jesus to explain the parable?

What did Jesus say comes from the heart?

Does eating with unwashed hands make a man unclean?

What did the Canaanite woman from near Tyre and Sidon request of Jesus?

How did the Canaanite woman address Jesus?

What did the disciples tell Jesus to do to the Canaanite woman?

Who did Jesus say he was sent to?

What did Jesus mean by saying it was not right to take the children's bread and give it to their dogs?

How did the Canaanite woman respond to Jesus refusal to help her?

What did Jesus say the woman had?

What did Jesus do for the Canaanite woman's daughter? and when did he do it?

Who did the crowds bring to Jesus?

What did Jesus do to the people brought to him?

What did the people do in response to Jesus' miracles?

What did Jesus say to his disciples about the crowd that had been with him for three days?

How many loaves did the disciples have?

How many fish did the disciples have?

What three things did Jesus do after he told the crowd to sit down on the ground?

How many basketfuls of broken pieces were left over after the meal?

How many men ate that day?

What did Jesus do after he sent the crowd away?

Where did Jesus travel to after he left the mountainside near the Sea of Galilee?

Answers to these questions can be found in Matthew chapter fifteen.

The Good News Gazette is written and published by Robin Robbins House and is provided free of charge to its subscribers. Content is copyrighted by Robin Robbins House unless otherwise noted and may only be used or redistributed with permission.

Scripture taken from the Holy Bible, New International Version Copyright 1973,1978,1984 by International Bible Society. Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved.

To subscribe, email your request to Robin at thegoodnewsgazette1@gmail.com.