

**Chapter 1 : Faces of Courage: Intimate Portraits of Women on the Edge by Mark Tuschman** €” Kickstart

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Courageous women in the Bible Esther married a fool who chose his queen for her beauty. Judith was a murderess, but also a theologian. Ruth had the sense to listen to someone older. Mary of Nazareth nudged her son into action. Jael murdered fearsome Sisera. Rahab the Prostitute lived in a seedy part of town. Joanna the Apostle, a Jewish noblewoman who saw Jesus die. They were midwives, ordered by Pharaoh to kill any male babies born to the Jewish slaves in Egypt. Ancient Egyptian birthing brick; women placed one of these under each foot as they squatted to give birth The two women would not do it. Their lives were dedicated to helping babies live, not killing them. They would not drown babies like unwanted kittens. Were they Hebrews or Egyptians? You would think Hebrews would have their own midwives €” but would Pharaoh have trusted Hebrew women to carry out what was in effect the annihilation of their own race? Ethnicity at that time was patrilineal, so killing the boys meant killing the tribe. Surely Pharaoh would have employed Egyptian women to carry out this order of his? They would be more likely to obey. Or were Shiprah and Puah expected to be collaborators against their own people in this first recorded pogrom? Wooden statuette of a foreign woman and her child, from a tomb at Beni-Hasan. Compare with the delicate statues of Egyptian women. Rather did they help the male children live. And the people of Israel became more numerous still. Now he chose a second wife for her beauty €” all very fine, but not when the woman in question is to be queen of a vast empire. Esther would need more than beauty and virtue to navigate the shoals of a corrupt and dangerous court. As it happened, Queen Esther was up to the task. But she did it. So as well as good looks and virtue, she had intelligence and courage, both of which she used to save her people from the pogrom that faced them. Of course she succeeded or we would not be reading the story. The Jewish people were saved, their enemies annihilated, and the event is celebrated to this day in the festival of Purim. The king shall appoint officers in all the provinces of his kingdom, and they shall select beautiful young virgins to be brought to the harem in Susa, the capital. And the woman who pleases the king shall be queen. Then, majestically adorned, she took two maids with her; on one she leaned gently for support, while the other followed, carrying her train. She was radiant with perfect beauty and she looked happy, as if beloved, but her heart was frozen with fear. Why was she famous? The general Deborah appointed to lead the Israelites was none too enthusiastic about his task. He was a sensible man and could see the Israelites were outclassed. But Deborah was able to convince him he could win €” though he only agreed to fight if she was there. When the time came, God stood by the Israelites. A drenching storm made the flat land of the battlefield a quagmire. Most probably she was from Ethiopia, a queen in her own right €” a royal woman used to getting her own way and confidently sure of her worth. Gifts were exchanged €” the Bible mentions gold, spices and precious stones, and Solomon was lavish in his hospitality. He was clearly trying to impress this queen. But he had such a reputation for enjoying the company of women that people have speculated that there was more to their relationship than just diplomacy. He had, after all, a large number of foreign wives and concubines €” the Bible mentions one thousand, though that was probably an exaggeration. Why did she come? The Bible suggests that her motive was curiosity about Solomon, who enjoyed a reputation for being a shrewd judge of character and a learned scholar as well. This is part of the truth. What happened while she was there? An affair between two equals? Solomon may have met his match, and so may she. And she came to Jerusalem with a very great train, with camels that bore spices, and very much gold, and precious stones: And King Solomon gave unto the Queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which Solomon gave her of his royal bounty. So she turned and went to her own country, she and her servants. I Kings 10 v. She was capable of brutal murder, but she was also a theologian, who proposed a more profound image of God. She was a respectable but very beautiful widow whose town was besieged and about to surrender. She went to the enemy camp, beguiled seduced? In fact, the story does not seem to have a moral theme at all. But there is a significant passage in the story where Judith argues with the elders of her town about what God is and is not. This is the part that should be read by

anyone who wishes to know God better. She points out that God cannot really ever be known, and that we are foolish if we think we can know God. God is not human like us, even though we try to make him so by giving him human qualities. All we can really do is trust in God, and hope for the best. What you have said to the people today is not right. Who are you to put God to the test, to set yourselves up in the place of God in human affairs. You are putting the Lord Almighty to the test, but you will never learn anything! You cannot plumb the depths of the human heart or understand the working of the human mind; how do you expect to search out God, who made all these things, and find out his mind or comprehend his through? God is not like a human being, to be threatened, or like a mere mortal, to be won over by pleasing. Therefore while we wait for his deliverance, let us call upon him to help us, and he will hear our voice, if it pleases him. But her common sense is not the only reason the story is popular. Ruth was loyal to someone who needed her and had been good to her in the past, even when the sensible thing would have been to cut and run. Heaven knows Naomi had nothing to offer the young widow, but Ruth stayed with her mother-in-law even when there was no gain in it for herself. It turned out to be the right decision. Naomi was financially destitute but she was street-wise, with a remarkable knowledge of the world and of men in particular. This proved more valuable than money. She told Ruth how to go about prodding Boaz, an eligible bachelor, into proposing – a skill that many young women today would like to learn. Ruth recognized good advice when she heard it, and acted accordingly. And she and Boaz lived happily ever after. When Boaz had eaten and drunk, and he was in a contented mood, he went to lie down at the end of the heap of grain. Then she came stealthily and uncovered his feet, and lay down. At midnight the man was startled, and turned over, and there lying at his feet was a woman! She saw what was going on behind the scenes at the wedding at Cana, and that the wine had run out – a severe embarrassment to any host and his family in Middle Eastern society. She also knew what her son was capable of. She approached him with a suggestion, nudging him into action. Jesus complied, though not without mildly objecting. Her tactful request was a subtle and diplomatic way of starting him in his ministry. Having made the suggestion she stepped back, letting him take over and follow up on her words in his own way. This he did, with his first miracle – a momentous event, even though it happened quietly. Mary knew when to speak, and when to be quiet. The story finishes with the image of Jesus, his mother and his extended family moving away together. The Miracle at Cana is not the most famous story about Mary of Nazareth, yet it sums up her character and her relationship with her son better than any of the other, better known stories. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. My hour has not yet come. But you have kept the good wine until now. She finished what Deborah had started see above. Jael was a small, unarmed woman, but the Song of Deborah records with a certain macabre glee the way she murdered the fearsome enemy general Sisera. The general, Sisera, had been defeated by the Israelites and fled from the battlefield, presumably deserting his army. Exhausted, he took shelter in the tent of Jael. He should have known better. Jael lulled him into a false sense of security, let him fall asleep, then took a tent peg and drove it through the side of his skull.

### Chapter 2 : Portraits of Courage: A Commander in Chief's Tribute to America's Warriors by George W. Bush

*Haitian women are the ones who make Haiti run. They are the glue of this tiny nation, whether they are market women selling vegetables, charcoal, and used clothing, or middle-class and wealthier.*

Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean. This was an extremely courageous act, but affected history because her strength and bravery inspired legions of women. As she flew across the skies she changed the limits of what women believed they could accomplish. There is no measuring how many women accomplished great things because they were inspired by this pioneering aviator. Earhart tried to fly around the world, but her plane disappeared and nobody knows what happened to her, but her abilities and accomplishments still inspire women, even today. Helen Keller was left deaf, blind and mute as a child and many believed she would never accomplish anything. However, once she was shown how to communicate she never stopped sharing her wisdom and thought provoking inspiration with the rest of the world. She changed history by providing inspiration for people with handicaps and without. There is no barrier that is too high to get over to achieve your goals and dreams. Keller spent her life writing books, lecturing and educating the world that people with disabilities could still be valuable to society. Bravery is one of the character traits that Keller had to have in order to persevere through the darkness and into the light. Mother Teresa was a leader of a group of nuns in India. She was very brave because she not only devoted her life to making the lives of the sick and poor in the world better, she wrote and spoke to others and helped give a human face to the issue of poverty. She changed history by inspiring countless people to help improve the lives of the poor and sick around the world. The world is a better place today because it had her in it. Another extremely brave woman who affected history was Rosa Parks. Parks refused to give up her seat on a segregated bus, resulting in the Montgomery Bus Boycott, which was a watershed moment in the American Civil Rights movement and led ultimately to the end of segregation in the United States. Parks has become an iconic symbol of standing up for what is right and her actions have inspired countless other women to do the same, throughout the world. Aung San Suu Kyi is from Burma and has shown extreme bravery. She was made a political prisoner for almost twenty years, but maintained a dignity and leadership that turned the world against the government that kept her captive. She was finally released for good in and then became the leader of the country. Joan of Arc is one of the bravest women in history. As the English army was poised to invade France, Joan of Arc rallied the French troops to an unlikely victory in the battle of Orleans. She truly believed that she was on a mission from God to defeat the British and she actually fought in the battle. Joan of Arc changed history forever. Elizabeth I of England has been described as brave, intelligent, crafty and diplomatic. One thing is for certain, she guided England to becoming the most dominant country in the world at the time. Because of her courage and leadership England transformed from being a poor country with little contact with the outside world to developing the country into one of the most significant nations in Europe and the world. The people came to trust her leadership and she set the stage for England to be a major power in the world for the next four hundred years after her reign. Leave a Reply Your email address will not be published.

## Chapter 3 : BAM | Women at Work: Labor Activism

*The program offers opportunities for women to find inspiration, discover renewed energy for life, and experience healing connections with other women and nature. CfR serves women of all ages, in all stages of breast cancer treatment and recovery, at no cost to participants.*

Through my photography, I bring these women and their stories to the forefront of global consciousness. Doctors, nurses, teachers, aid workers, and NGO staff – these are the silent heroes who are working tirelessly to improve the lives of millions of women around the world. In Dhaka, Bangladesh, this woman just received a long-term birth control implant. She is being counseled by her physician. Faces of Courage is unique – no other photo-documentary has portrayed the full scope of this human drama as it unfolds around the world, including the efforts to help women move from tragedy and despair to hope and triumph. You can read many articles about women in peril, and you can find reams of appalling statistics in countless reports and journals. But to me, these portraits of individual girls and women communicate in a much more direct and compelling way. They tell the story of our changing world, with an eloquence that words can never match. Rajasthan, India – Two young girls from a rural village. One must stay at home to look after her younger siblings and the goats, while the other is supported by her mother to attend school. But the book will not become a reality without your support. With your help, we can share their voices with as wide an audience as possible. Its hopeful message will make the book an effective communication tool, while shedding light on the heroic work of the small, grassroots organizations featured throughout. Mother and infant in Kumasi, Kenya Where reproductive healthcare exists, we have the opportunity to make critical differences in protecting the rights and voices of women, which will go a long way toward alleviating poverty and stimulating economic productivity. I have documented many programs that have produced results, but even the most effective programs need to be scaled up by many orders of magnitude to serve the huge populations in need. With this goal in mind, Faces of Courage and the accompanying website and PR campaign are geared toward raising consciousness and inspiring activists to support programs serving women in need around the world. Midwife and expectant mother in Otavalo, Ecuador I have been asked more than once why, as a man, am I focused on the rights of women? The answer is simple: Millions of women face travails on a daily basis that are an outrage and totally unacceptable; for example, some are trafficked and bound in contemporary forms of slavery. How can you help? Please explore the rewards we are offering below and donate as much as possible. And no matter how little or how much you can give, please share this website and project with your friends, family, and colleagues. Please connect with me on my new Facebook page and on Twitter marktuschman and CourageFaces. I hope that you find these portraits and stories inspiring, and that you will consider becoming a backer of this important and timely project. Mark Tuschman mark tuschmanphoto. You will find all the details below and please do get in touch if you have any questions. Be one of the first to back the project, and receive one of only 75 rewards at this level: This applies for all sizes of print. For the past 35 years I have traveled the world as a photographer. My work has won several international photography competitions, including the Global Health Council Photographer of the Year award and the SocialDocumentary. I was also the featured exhibiting photographer at the WomenDeliver international conference in Malaysia in Risks and challenges With a publishing project like this, the biggest risk is usually delay. I already have an experienced designer and printer on board, and we have accurate printing and shipping costs from one of the best printers from Japan, plus an excellent distributor. If we raise the funds the book will be published. Although this is my first Kickstarter project, I have done my homework and am fully aware of the challenges presented by fulfilling the rewards, and have set aside the time and accounted for the resources necessary for the packaging and shipping. The book will be shipped from the US, and the cost for shipping such a large and heavy book is quite high. If you live outside of the US, please add the extra shipping costs as indicated on each individual reward level where applicable. I appreciate your understanding and thank you in advance, and please do get in touch with me if you have any questions. Questions about this project? As a thank you for your support your name will be listed as a donor on my Facebook page and website.

## Chapter 4 : Words and Pictures: Courageous Women

*Faces of Courage is very timely, as there is a growing movement in the United States and abroad that is hungry for real, substantive content on women's human rights; readers yearn to explore and understand more fully the facts and issues involved.*

How that looks varies from person to person, but the overarching tenet is the same. We all face trials of various kinds, which are allowed by God to develop our character, advance His kingdom, and bring glory to His name. It helps to read of other great men and women who have suffered for Christ. Unfortunately, many biographies gloss over the sufferings of our favorite heroes of the faith. We measure our skills and abilities against their time-honored accomplishments, and feel like we fall desperately short. They are written for our instruction and encouragement, not our jealousy or despair. Yet it helps tremendously to learn more about their sufferings, brokenness, failures, and frailties. Each chapter is focused on one person, and one specific way they showed faithful endurance through their unique trials. It shares specific details of their sufferings, direct quotations from their correspondence or sermons, and a few key takeaways that we can glean from their examples. Many of the names were familiar, but not all – unfortunately, it was a little harder to relate to the unfamiliar ones due to the brevity of each chapter. However, there were a plethora of end notes, which provided quite a few resources for further reading about each of the men. In considering a brief theology of suffering, it shared six Pauline lessons on faithfulness that we would do well to heed, whatever our occupation may be. It then went on to consider the following 11 examples of faithful endurance: Faithful in Exile John Bunyan: Faithful in Prison Jonathan Edwards: Faithful to the End John Newton: Faithful amid Disappointment Andrew Fuller: Faithful amid Heartbreak Charles Simeon: Faithful in the Face of Racism C. Faithful in Sorrow J. Faithful amid Personal Ruin Janani Luwum: Faithful unto Death Wang Ming-Dao: Faithful amid Political Coercion As I read each chapter, I found it especially helpful to note the variety of trials. Some suffered severe persecution for their faith, some from family deaths or betrayals, and others from financial hardships or emotional struggles. There is no one-size-fits-all manual for facing persecution other than trusting in God to carry you through it. Encouragement for Those in Ministry While the book is officially written to men who are pastors, I found it extremely helpful in strengthening my own faith. Lord willing, I have many long years of ministry ahead of me – and I know I will face many trials, especially as we seek to share the gospel with unreached people. It fortified my faith in our good Heavenly Father, who will never allow anything in our lives that is not for our good and His glory. I know suffering will come – but I also know the One who will walk with me through that suffering. This compilation of biographical sketches should be an encouragement for any Christian, no matter what your calling in life, and especially for those serving in full-time ministry. We all face hard things as soldiers of Christ, but those in pastoral ministry or missions of some sort seem to experience an extra measure of trials. [Download a free sample here](#) , or [buy the book here](#) affiliate link. I received this book for free in exchange for sharing my honest opinion. All thoughts expressed herein are completely my own.

## Chapter 5 : 7 Brave Women Through History | City Of The Brave

*A series of text-based classes on the life of the matriarch Sarah as illuminated by the Torah, Talmud, Midrash, Kabbalah and other primary sources.*

## Chapter 6 : HEROINES of the BIBLE: which one would you be?

*Portraits of Courage ran March 2 through October 17, , at the George W. Bush Presidential Center on the SMU campus in Dallas, Texas. Buy the Portraits of Courage Book Each painting in this meticulously produced hardcover volume is accompanied by the inspiring story of the veteran depicted, written by President Bush.*

### Chapter 7 : Portraits of Courage - Wikipedia

*These are the women I brought to the fore in "Faces of Courage," and I believe the moment is right for us to join hands, again, and speak out on their behalf. To do that, I am examining ways to relaunch "Faces of Courage" in a very public way.*

### Chapter 8 : 12 Faithful Men: Portraits of Courageous Endurance – DogFur & Dandelions

*-President Bush, Portraits of Courage Without a doubt, one can feel the immense love and admiration President Bush feels toward our service men and women. The book is a testament to President Bush's life mission since he left the White House in January , to honor our veterans and current men and women serving in the military.*

### Chapter 9 : 6 Most Courageous Women in The World

*Josette Baer. Foreword by Jan Foltn. This engaging and insightful book is the first historical study in English to portray the lives and fates of Slovak women.*