

A Seat on the Bus

Courage is demonstrated in many ways and in many situations. People who found themselves oppressed by the laws and practices of segregation had to reach down deep to find the character necessary to assert their freedoms as guaranteed by the Constitution.

Rosa Parks, mother of the civil rights movement, was arrested in 1955 for refusing to give her bus seat to a white man. Boycotts and protests followed, and eventually the Supreme Court ruled racial segregation unconstitutional. In *Quiet Strength*, she writes:

"I have learned over the years that knowing what must be done does away with fear. When I sat down on the bus that day, I had no idea history was being made -- I was only thinking of getting home. But I had made up my mind. After so many years of being a victim of the mistreatment my people suffered, not giving up my seat -- and whatever I had to face afterwards -- was not important. I did not feel any fear sitting there. I felt the Lord would give me the strength to endure whatever I had to face. It was time for someone to stand up -- or in my case, sit down. So I refused to move."

Rosa Parks' case proves an important principle. Settle in your mind what is right, and you will find courage in your heart.

--Beecher Hunter