

1 Winners Never Quit

2 The Indy 500

- One hundred years ago, this weekend, the first Indianapolis 500 was held at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- Even at that time, it attracted widespread attention from both American and European racing teams.
- Originally built in 1909 the Speedway was a dirt track, but in 1911 it was paved with bricks—giving it the nickname the Brickyard.

3 The First Winner

- The first winner of the Indy 500 was an American by the name of Ray Harroun.
- His average speed was just under 75 mph, and it took him 6:40 to complete the race
- His winnings were \$10,000.
- Today, average speed for the race is around 161 mph, and drivers can earn up to 3 million dollars in cash prizes.

4 1911 Newsreel

5 New Innovation

6 Greatest Spectacle in Racing

- The event, billed as The Greatest Spectacle in Racing, is considered one of the three most significant motorsports events in the world.
- The official attendance is not disclosed by Speedway management, but the permanent seating capacity is more than 257,000 people, and infield seating raises capacity to an approximate 400,000.

7 Greatest Spectacle in Racing

- During qualifications many cars average speeds in excess of 220 mph.
- The 3.5-liter turbocharged engines produce more than 650 horsepower.
- However, their fuel economy is only .769 mpg.
- The aerodynamics of the cars produces a downforce of 5,000 pounds.
- At speed the tire treads reach a temperature of 212°.

8 The Valvoline Special

- My dad took me to my first Indy 500 in 1966 when I was 11 years old.
- The company he worked for had a car sponsored called the Valvoline Special, driven by Eddie Johnson who finished 7th.
- That year is remembered for having an 11 car pile up at the start of the race.

- The winner of the race that year was Graham Hill.

9 Speedway Museum

10 The 1912 INDY 500

- But perhaps the most memorable, or at least inspiring, Indy event occurred during the second running at the Brickyard in 1912.
- Something happened in that race that caught the public's imagination and helped to make the Indianapolis 500 the great race it is today.
- What happened didn't even involve the winner.
- It involved Ralph DePalma and his riding mechanic Rupert Jeffkins.

11 The 1912 INDY 500

- At the start of the race, Ralph DePalma immediately took the lead and set a blistering pace.
- In fact, he led the race for 198 of the 200 laps.
- But with only a mile to go something went horribly wrong with his Mercedes.
- The engine stopped and the car came to a rest on the back straightaway.
- Undaunted, DePalma and his riding mechanic got out of their car and started pushing.

12 They Finished the Race

13 The Crowd goes Wild . . .

- Even though, Joe Dawson passed them to win the race. It didn't matter.
- The crowd gave him a standing ovation, and the story of DePalma pushing his car across the finish line swept across the nation and captured the fancy of everyone.
- From then on the Indianapolis 500 became an American tradition.
- DePalma went on to win the 1915 Indy 500 and in his career won over 2,500 races.

14 David's final Word

- When the time drew near for David to die, he gave a charge to Solomon his son.
 - “I am about to go the way of all the earth,” he said.
 - “So be strong, show yourself a man, and observe what the LORD your God requires:
 - Walk in his ways, and keep his decrees and commands, his laws and requirements, as written in the Law of Moses,
 - so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go,
 - and that the LORD may keep his promise to me:
 - ‘If your descendants watch how they live, and if they walk faithfully before me with all their heart and soul, you will never fail to have a man on the throne of Israel.’ (1 Kings 2:1-4 NIV)

15 Be Strong

- Ralph DePalma probably would have been shocked to learn before the race that he would have to push his car across finish line.
- This is often how we approach life. We expect life to carry us along. We think that life is a stream upon which we flow and go. We think that life carries us, we don't carry life.
- How surprised we are when sometimes things break down and we have to climb out of our expectations, clamber over our dreams, and step out onto the rough brick road of experience and start pushing.
- No doubt this is why David tells his son Solomon to "Be strong."
- Why, because life is always full of unexpected setbacks that can tempt us to quit or stop trying.

16 Be Strong

- Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." (Deut 31:6 NIV)
- Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." (Josh 1:9 NIV)
- Consider now, for the LORD has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work." (1 Chr 28:10 NIV)
- Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. (1 Cor 16:13 NIV)
- Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. (Eph 6:10 NIV)

17 Be Courageous

- Can you imagine how DePalma felt as his car came to a grinding halt on the speedway? He wasn't just a lame duck, but a dead duck. No two ways about it.
- However, despite all odds, he chose to be courageous and not quit.
- David says to his son, "Be courageous." He didn't say, "Don't be afraid," because as Mark Twain has famously observed, "Courage is not the absence of fear. It is acting in spite of it."
- In other words, courage is knowing what's around the corner and choosing to act because you are confident that the Lord is with you.

18 Be Faithful

- David's last advice to his son was to "keep the charge of the LORD your God, walking in his ways and keeping his statutes, his commandments, his ordinances, and his testimonies." (2:3)
- God said something similar to Joshua when he began his leadership of the house of Israel:

- “This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful” (Joshua 1:8).
- Being strong and courageous without being faithful to the word of God only means that our strength and courage are likely to be misplaced and misdirected or, to come as something that’s too little or too late.

19 Be Faithful

- However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me — the task of testifying to the gospel of God’s grace. (Acts 20:24 NIV)
- I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. (2 Tim 4:7 NIV)
- Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. (1 Cor 9:24 NIV)

20 Taking care of Business

- When someone is on their death bed and they give you their final words of wisdom, you can be sure they are important.
- And what did David tell Solomon?
 - Be strong
 - Be courageous
 - Be faithful to God
- David’s advice to Solomon and our mandate as followers of Jesus Christ are not experienced in a poofy land of make-believe, but in a nitty-gritty, 24/7 fast-paced world of unbelief, hostility and anger.
- If we are to cross the finish line, we are going to need to be strong, courageous, and faithful to God because life is full of trials and we may be tempted to quit when the unexpected happens.

21 Unexpected Trouble

- Examples of Unexpected Trouble
 - Bad report from the doctor where you learn you have a serious health issue.
 - A policeman knocks at the door with news about one of your children.
 - You are laid off from work and times are hard everywhere.
 - You just learned that your spouse has been unfaithful.
 - A close friend or work associate you trusted has just stabbed you in the back.

- The stock market has crashed and now your retirement fund is worth nothing.

22 Fight the Good Fight

- During times of disappointment, we need to fight the good fight of faith.
- Instead of giving into fear, pointing fingers, and complaining, we need to instead:
 - Resist the temptation to repay evil with evil.
 - Instead, let us, be strong and courageous and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness. (1 Tim 6:11 NIV)

23 To the finish Line!

24 Closing

- Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses (winners who finished the race), let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. (Heb 12:1 NIV)