

= Courageous (song) =

" Courageous " is a song by contemporary Christian music band Casting Crowns , released by Beach Street Records , Reunion Records , and Provident Label Group . Written by Mark Hall and Matthew West and produced by Mark A. Miller , it was released on July 19 , 2011 as the first single from the band 's 2011 album Come to the Well . Hall has said the inspiration for the song was at the National Day of Prayer breakfast in 2008 . A rock , pop rock and soft rock song , it calls fathers to be better spiritual leaders .

" Courageous " was received positively by critics , many of whom praised the song as one of the best off of Come to the Well . It peaked at number one on the Billboard Hot Christian Songs and Christian AC Indicator charts and also peaked inside the top five on the Hot Christian Songs , Christian CHR , and Soft AC / Inspirational charts . It peaked at number four on the Billboard Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart , which measures the top twenty @-@ five singles that have not entered the Billboard Hot 100 , and number sixteen on the Heatseekers Songs chart .

= = Background and recording = =

According to lead vocalist Mark Hall , the inspiration for " Courageous " came at the National Day of Prayer breakfast in 2008 . Casting Crowns was performing at the event and Hall met with Alex Kendrick , who was also a part of the event . The two started talking about various topics until Hall told Kendrick about his church 's Bible study program for fathers . Hall said that " our hearts just sort of joined on this passion to see men rise up and be the godly men of the house that God has called us to be " . Kendrick mentioned that he wanted a song to be at the end credits of a movie and that " lit [Hall] up " .

" Courageous " was written by Mark Hall and Matthew West and produced by Mark A. Miller . It was recorded and mixed by Sam Hewitt at Zoo Studio in Franklin , Tennessee , with additional vocals recorded at Eagle 's Landing Studio in McDonough , Georgia . The song was mastered by Andrew Mendelson .

= = Composition = =

" Courageous " is a song with a length of three minutes and fifty @-@ nine seconds . According to the sheet music published by Musicnotes.com , it is set common time in the key of F ? minor and has a tempo of 82 beats per minute . Mark Hall 's vocal range in the song spans from the low note of A3 to the high note of F ? 5 . A rock , pop rock , and soft rock song , " Courageous " features " jangling " guitars and a " muscular " guitar riff . Lyrically , it calls fathers to be better spiritual leaders ; the song 's bridge quotes the Book of Micah , calling the listener to " live justly and love mercy and walk humbly with your God " .

= = Critical reception = =

" Courageous " was received positively by music critics . James Christopher Monger of Allmusic selected it as a ' Track pick ' and felt it contributed to a strong opening for Come to the Well . Grace S. Aspinwall of CCM Magazine felt " Courageous " was one of the best tracks on the album . Tom Lennie of Cross Rhythms was less positive , calling the song " one of the least melodic tunes on offer on [Come to the Well] . Lindsay Williams of Gospel Music Channel felt the song demonstrated how Matthew West 's songwriting on Come to the Well made the album better . Alex " Tincan " Caldwell of Jesus Freak Hideout felt the song was an " apt challenge to men of God in this world who maintain spectator lifestyles and live vicariously through television shows and sports teams " and said the bridge made the song " thought @-@ provoking " .

= = Release and chart performance = =

" Courageous " was released as a digital download on July 19 , 2011 and to Christian AC , Christian CHR , and Soft AC / Inspirational radio on August 13 , 2011 . It debuted at number thirty @-@ eight on the Billboard Hot Christian Songs chart for the chart week of August 27 , 2011 . It advanced to number eighteen in its second chart week and to number fifteen in its sixth week . In its eight chart week , it jumped from number eleven to number four . In its eleventh chart week , " Courageous " advanced to the number one position , which it held for a total of four consecutive weeks . It dropped to the number two position in its fifteenth chart week but returned to the number one position the following week . In total , " Courageous " spent twenty @-@ seven weeks on the Hot Christian Songs chart .

It also peaked at number one on the Christian AC Indicator chart , number two on the Hot Christian AC chart , number three on the Soft AC / Inspirational and Christian CHR charts . It peaked at number four on the Bubbling Under Hot 100 Singles chart , which ranks the top twenty @-@ five songs that have not reached the Billboard Hot 100 , and at number sixteen on the Heatseekers Songs chart , which measures the top songs by artists who have never reached the top fifty on the Billboard Hot 100 . " Courageous " was the twenty @-@ ninth best @-@ selling Christian song of 2011 , also ranking on the 2011 year @-@ end Hot Christian Songs and Hot Christian AC charts at number thirty @-@ one and thirty @-@ three , respectively .

= = Credits and personnel = =

Credits lifted from the digital booklet for Come to the Well .

= = Chart positions = =

= = Release and radio history = =