

CBS Mornings

10/16/25

8:00:18 a.m. [TEASE]

12 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: "We Can Be Brave"]

VLADIMIR DUTHIERS: Episcopal Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde was brave enough to tell President Trump to welcome refugees to America. She'll tell us why she is bringing that lesson of bravery to kids in a new book.

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8:44:31 a.m. [TEASE]

13 seconds

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Coming Up; Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde]

DUTHIERS: I'm here in the greenroom with trailblazing Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde. She's in our Progressive Greenroom. She's got a new children's book, here it is. It's what we can all learn and there's a *Harry Potter* story in here, right?

RIGHT REVEREND MARIANN EDGAR BUDDE: Yes, yes.

DUTHIERS: That's coming up when we come back. Stick around.

(...)

8:47:53 a.m.

5 minutes and 5 seconds

BUDDE [on 01/21/25]: I ask you to have mercy, Mr. President, on those in our communities whose children fear that their parents will be taken away, and that you help those that are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here.

NATE BURLESON: That was the leader of Washington's Episcopal Diocese, Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde making a plea to President Trump during the Inaugural Prayer Service earlier this year. She writes about that moment in a new book for young readers. *We Can Be Brave: How We Learn to Be Brave in Life's Decisive Moments*. She highlights examples from "Harry Potter" to Martin Luther King, Jr. The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde joins us now. Good morning! Good to see you.

BUDDE: Good morning. Good morning.

GAYLE KING: Good morning.

DUTHIERS: So, what I love is, you open the book writing that for you, parenting was a master class in courage, this is directed to young people.

BUDDE: Yes. Yes.

DUTHIERS: Break that down for me.

BUDDE: Well, to watch children grow up and to realize that nearly every day, they asked to do something they've never done before, from the beginning and it seems like our Creator has made us so that we can face thresholds of unknowing and things that we've never, ever been asked to do, and then we cross them, time and time again, so when they were very young, to when they were teenagers facing really hard things, I watched them, sometimes wanting to protect them and not being able to, seeing how they responded when they failed and got back up again, I think it's one of the great privileges of parenting.

[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: New Book Teaches "How We Learn to Be Brave"]

KING: Well, if they're asked to do something, and I hadn't thought about it until you put it in the book this way.

BURLESON: Right.

KING: Whether they are riding a bike or doing something they've never done before, young people are asked to do brave things all the time. So do you think that bravery or courage is taught, learned or is it something we are born with?

BUDDE: All of the above. All of the above.

KING: All of the above?

BUDDE: It's clearly innate. It's part of our — the way we are created to move towards things that we cannot do, and we learn it, and we're inspired by others.

BURLESON: Yes.

BUDDE: Certainly, if we have people around us who encourage, whose life examples we follow, it is all of those things and that is one of the things I wanted to say. It's a lifelong journey.

BURLESON: Yes, another thing that you say, you write in the book, "accepting what we do not choose and cannot change is one of the most courageous decisions we make."

BUDDE: Yeah.

BURLESON: I love that.

BUDDE: And it's a hard one.

BURLESON: It is a hard one.

BUDDE: Especially hard when we're young. Because we don't want — you know, who wants to accept the things that we don't want to be true? But, you know as well as I that some of the most courageous people, and the people who made change started by accepting something.

BURLESON: Yes.

BUDDE: And then making their life choices from there.

DUTHIERS: You know, one of the most moving chapters in the book is one where you talk about Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

BUDDE: Yes.

DUTHIERS: And you illustrate what he used to call dangerous unselfishness.

BUDDE: Yes.

DUTHIERS: And you use that to illustrate the Good Samaritan story. The Good Samaritan, where the two members of the clergy walk by a wounded man, and they say, if I stop to help this man, what will happen to me? But the Samaritan who is one of the most hated classes —

BUDDE: Hated people.

DUTHIERS: He says what?

BUDDE: He says, if I don't stop to help this man, what will happen to him? And King used that as an example of his justification for going to be part of the sanitation worker strike in Memphis, which is where he was killed, because people didn't want him to go. And he said, if I don't go, what will happen to them?

BURLESON: Yes.

BUDDE: As opposed to, if I do go, what will happen to me.

NATE BURLESON: What happens —

KING: I'm — I'm curious about your own background, though, Bishop, because you became a national figure for many people when you addressed the President that day in the prayer service. Some people looked at that and said, okay, she's spot-on, that's perfection. Other people looked at it said, how dare her, that's very disrespectful. I would imagine that you gave that a lot of thought before you did that. It's not something that you go in, it is sort of off the cuff. What was

your intention in that moment? And how did you decide, I'm going to do it here and now?

BUDDE: Thank you. My main goal in that moment was to bring the humanity into the room of people who had been spoken of in sweeping, de-humanizing terms and to broaden — to broaden all of our awareness, although we all know this, that human beings are not all one thing or the other, so I wanted to do that and I also knew that many people in our country are afraid.

KING: Do you think you made a difference in that moment?

BUDDE: I don't think I made a difference in the policies of this administration. That's pretty clear. I think that there were many people who were grateful that I see them and that I spoke a truth that they were afraid was being consistently denied.

DUTHIERS: It is a powerful message, Bishop Mariann Edgard Budde, thank you very much. *We Can Be Brave* goes on sale this coming Tuesday.

KING: Everywhere you like to buy your books.