

## Everyday Heroes

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### Introduction: You Can Be a Hero!

- A. Young people especially are in need of good role models who will serve as heroes to inspire and motivate them to do what is right!
- B. Our definition of a hero must not be too narrow or restrictive.
  - 1. To be a hero, one does not have to achieve extraordinary works or perform amazing acts that impresses and dazzles.
  - 2. The truth is heroes may be seen everyday in people with big hearts who will commit themselves to do what is right no matter what.
- C. Every Christian must rise to the challenge to do God's will each day.
  - 1. There will be trials, temptations, and tribulations involved in living the Christian life (**1 Pet. 1:7; Eph. 6:13; Acts 14:22**).
  - 2. Thus, we will need faith and courage to never give up in our service to the Lord; *we will all, to some degree, need to be heroes for God!*

### I. Heroes Are Brave.

- A. Heroism is not limited to great feats or incredible acts of courage.
  - 1. Hollywood creates super action heroes and the news media lifts up citizens who show great acts of courage to save their loved ones.
  - 2. People from the Bible are remembered as heroes for their bravery.
  - 3. Yet, what do we know of the kind of life each person chose to live?
- B. Heroes bravely serve the Lord everyday, no matter how challenging it may be.
  - 1. True heroes are not heroes occasionally, but are constantly doing their best to be brave when facing the trials of life (e.g., **2 Cor. 4:7-10**).
  - 2. A true hero bravely faces his troubles instead of turning his back on them (e.g., marital difficulties, parental challenges, financial hardship).
  - 3. Every Christian has to be brave (**2 Tim. 3:12**); to privately *and publicly* stand firm in the gospel of Christ without shame or fear (**Phil. 1:27-28**).
- C. God has called all of His children to be brave, not cowardly, *every day*.
  - 1. Christians are to be brave, bold, or courageous ("manly" - **1 Cor 16:13**).
  - 2. To live life as a coward will cost us our salvation (**Rev. 21:8**).

### II. Heroes Seek Justice.

- A. True heroes seek justice, not revenge.
  - 1. Commonly, avengers are portrayed as heroes in television, movies, comics, and computer games, taking its toll on our children and society.
  - 2. Those who seek "payback" are not real heroes in the sight of God (**Rom. 12:17-19; 13:4**).
  - 3. Those who truly want to help victims of tragedy will concentrate on meeting their needs instead of personal vengeance (e.g., **Lk 10:30-37**).
- B. Heroes are those who *actively* pursue justice.
  - 1. A hero actively works for the rights of others; especially those who are weak, destitute, and afflicted (**James 1:27; cf. Isa. 1:17; Prov. 31:9**).
  - 2. To be a *hero*, one puts themselves "on the line" for the rights of others!
  - 3. A hero is motivated by his compassion (mercy) for others as he pursues justice for those in need (**Mat 23:23**).

### III. Heroes Are Persistent.

- A. Many people are quitters and pessimists, who give up easily at the first sign of conflict or challenge (e.g., **Ex. 14:10-12; Num. 13:31-33**).
- B. In contrast, heroes are persistent, refusing to quit until “mission accomplished.”
  - 1. The apostles were heroes for their great persistence to teach the gospel to the lost despite persecution and setbacks (**Acts 5:40-42**).
  - 2. There are many “unsung heroes” that we take for granted, who did not give up despite the odds (e.g., parents, teachers, evangelists).
  - 3. You can be a hero everyday when you refuse to surrender to the devil and give in to sin (**1 Pet. 5:8-9**) and by never ceasing to do good unto others, no matter what the response or result (**Luke 6:27-31; Gal. 6:7-10**).

### IV. Heroes Have Integrity.

- A. Many people compromise their own beliefs in order “to survive.” (e.g., **1 Sam. 13:8-13**).
  - 1. Many lie and cheat in order to get by or get ahead.
  - 2. Many set aside their values and moral convictions in order to gain friendship and approval or in the name of “success.”
  - 3. The world is constantly enticing people to give in to sensual pleasures at the cost of what is most important and valuable (**1 John 2:16; Mat 16:26**).
- B. Heroes are committed to what they believe in no matter what (**2 Cor. 13:8**).
  - 1. Those that have real integrity, not only believe in the truth, but live by the truth (**3 John 2-4**).
  - 2. By putting our trust in God, we will have the courage and strength we need to maintain our integrity for the Lord (**1 Pet. 4:19**).
    - a. To go against friends or family to do what is right (**Mat 10:37**).
    - b. To refuse to give in to the pleasures of sin (**Heb. 11:24-26**).
    - c. To not yield to pressures of the world to conform (**Rom 12:2**).
    - d. To never trade what we believe in for the approval of others! (**John 12:42-43; cf. Gal. 1:10**).
  - 3. Christians who are true to themselves, to what they believe in and value *in Christ* will always have great joy in the Lord (**Phil. 4:4**).

### V. Heroes Selflessly Serve Others.

- A. Many refuse to help without first asking the question: “*What’s in it for me?*” (e.g., fortune, fame, recognition, praises of men, etc.).
- B. Heroes selflessly make personal sacrifices in order to help others.
  - 1. A true hero acts, not out of convenience or a desire for personal gain, but out of genuine love (**John 15:13**).
  - 2. All Christians will have to give up something in order to do what is right to help others in need (e.g., time, energy, sleep, money, friendship).
  - 3. Sometimes we may have to give up our own dreams in order to do what is right (e.g., career, wealth, hobby, popularity, goals).
  - 4. Consider Jesus who gave up everything in order to be our Savior and you can be a selfless hero too! (**Phil. 2:3-8**).

**Conclusion: Let Us Answer the Call of Jesus (Luke 9:23) and Be a Hero Everyday!**