

How Do You Define "Hero"?

<u>1 Samuel 17:45</u>: (NASB) Then David said to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword, a spear, and a javelin, but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have taunted.



Everyone loves a hero. Everyone loves to watch "that guy" as he or she defies the odds, stands up against darkness, evil or injustice and fights. Sometimes he fights alone and sometimes his fight inspires others to stand and fight with him. We admire the guts, the vision and the strength of such people, for they in their heroic actions represent what we would like to be. So, what makes someone a hero? Is it one heroic action or is it a life lived in a heroic way? Do people become heroes because of their strength or in spite of their weakness? Are heroes made or are they born? How can you and I become more heroic in our everyday lives?

(1) Part one, What is a Hero, Join the conversation

(Comments from several individuals with their thoughts on how they define a hero.)

- A drill Sergeant once told me that integrity is doing the right thing when nobody's looking. That's what a hero is and I think heroes come in all forms.
- A hero to me is somebody who's willing to step up not because they're asked to but simply because they know it's the right thing to do.
- A brave individual who goes out of his or her way to protect others.
- I've seen heroes in the military, serving along side them.
- A hero is someone who gives up their freedoms their safety, for your freedom for your safety.
- All our military members who signed that dotted line.
- Sacrificing everything. Doing whatever it takes to help another.
- Life, limb, love of family, whether it's freedom or those in need.
- I consider every person that fights for our country a hero.
- Doesn't do it for the money, doesn't do it for the fame.
- They don't care about the recognition that they're going to get from it.
- Spontaneity of reacting or sacrificing and giving up of themselves just to help another human being.

A hero is someone who puts themselves aside for the sake of others. "Agape love" is the highest form of love taught by Jesus. It is the type of love that gives without thought of receiving back. Heroism fits in with this concept.

We will be putting together different pieces of the puzzle of what a hero is, starting by focusing on the Bible story of David and Goliath. We will uncover a hero in the making through specific phases.





David and Goliath/A hero is revealed in David

First phase: "The Challenge" - a powerful defiance of God and His people:

<u>1 Samuel 17:3-9</u>: (NKJV) ³The Philistines stood on a mountain on one side, and Israel stood on a mountain on the other side, with a valley between them. ⁴And a champion went out from the camp of the Philistines, named Goliath, whose height was six cubits and a span. (About 9 feet tall!) ⁵He had a bronze helmet on his head, and he was armed with a coat of mail, and the weight of the coat was five thousand shekels of bronze. (220 pounds) ⁶And he had bronze armor on his legs and a bronze javelin between his shoulders. ⁷Now the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam (nearly 3 inches thick), and his iron spearhead weighed six hundred shekels (25 pounds); and a shield-bearer went before him. ⁸Then he stood and cried out to the armies of Israel, and said to them, why have you come out to line up for battle? Am I not a Philistine, and you the servants of Saul? Choose a man for yourselves, and let him come down to me. ⁹If he is able to fight with me and kill me, then we will be your servants. But if I prevail against him and kill him, then you shall be our servants and serve us. (Goliath puts out a challenge.)

Everyone loves to watch a hero. For a little fun throughout the program, we will take theme songs from a few movies and see why these themes represent a hero in the minds of many people.

The Theme from Rocky (movie)

Rocky was a fictional person living in the present time with real-life human issues and foes. He was a believable picture of heroism.

In Matthew Winkler's, "What Makes a Hero," he draws some fascinating conclusions about the elements that come together to create not only a hero but also the pathway of a hero. He uses the example of a clock because there are twelve points of progress that the pathway of a hero goes through. We are going to apply Jesus to each of these twelve points (they do not fit exactly) and show the pathway of the ultimate heroic life.

(1) Introduction through one and two o'clock, What Makes a Hero, Matthew Winkler



What do Harry Potter, Katniss Everdeem, and Frodo all have in common with the heroes of ancient myths? What if I told you they're all variants of the same hero? Do you believe that? Joseph Campbell did. He studied myths from all over the world and published a book called, "The Hero With A Thousand Faces" retelling dozens of stories and explaining how each represents the "mono myth" or hero's journey. So, what is the hero's journey? Think of it as a cycle. The journey begins and ends in the hero's

ordinary world but the quest passes through an unfamiliar, special world. Along the way there are some key events. Status quo - that's where we start. One O'clock: Called to Adventure. The hero receives a mysterious message. An invitation? A challenge? Two O'clock: Assistance. The hero needs some help, probably from someone older, wiser.



His supposition is that heroes follow this general cycle. We are going to put this cycle to the test and look at Jesus as the hero who follows this cycle from heaven, to earth, to his crucifixion and back in heaven to finish the work that he started.



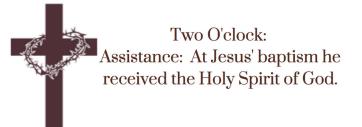


 One O'clock: Call to adventure: For Jesus it is receiving the invitation, which he answers.
We see that prophetically in Isaiah 6:8.

Jesus heard the call in the heavenly realm:

<u>Isaiah 6:8</u>: (NASB) Then I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, whom shall I send, and who will go for Us? Then I said here am I. Send me!

Jesus answered the call. We can have a once in a lifetime call if we are a footstep follower of Christ. Our call to adventure can be daily, depending on the circumstances, to rise up to a level of heroism. Sometimes the hero needs help (assistance).



<u>Matthew 3:13-17</u>: (NASB) ¹³Then Jesus arrived from Galilee at the Jordan coming to John, to be baptized by him. ¹⁴But John tried to prevent him, saying, I have need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me? ¹⁵But Jesus answering said to him, Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he permitted him. ¹⁶After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on him, ¹⁷and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.

Jesus was given the assistance of God's power and influence in his life to accomplish his mission.

However frequently we must answer a call, we can always go with the help of God and His spirit (God's power and influence).

(2011)) The Fall, Wesley - Unsung Hero in New York, CBS News (2011)

- (Reporter) On the New York City subway, it's hard enough finding someone who will give up his seat to a stranger let alone be willing to give up his life for one.
- (Wesley Autrey) The train was coming in like that. (Sounds of a subway train speeding by)
- (Reporter) 50-year old Wesley Autrey, a construction worker and Navy veteran, was standing on a subway



platform with his two little girls when right in front of them a man started having a seizure.

• (Wesley Autrey) He kind of stumbled over his own feet and fell backwards and I see a train coming but the train is so close, I'm like what do I do?



"What do I do?" That is a hero's dilemma.

How do we react when a seemingly insurmountable challenge is set before us?

We are looking at heroes from a number of different perspectives: how a hero is revealed in David, the pathway of Jesus, a man who performed a heroic act in the New York City subway station and fictional heroes through movie themes.

> تواریز اور ای مرابع ا The Theme from the "Avengers" (movie)

The Avengers are fictional people in the present time aided by mutants and space creatures fighting space creatures. This is considered sci-fi heroism - a story of good versus evil.

David and Goliath/A hero is revealed in David

Second phase: "The Reaction."

<u>1 Samuel 17:11,16</u>: (NKJV) ¹¹When Saul and all Israel heard these words of the Philistine; they were dismayed and greatly afraid. ¹⁶And the Philistine drew near and presented himself forty days, morning and evening.

Meanwhile, Jesse, David's father, sent David to the battlefront with supplies for his three oldest brothers:

1 Samuel 17:22-23: (NKJV) ²²And David...greeted his brothers. ²³Then as he talked with them, there was the champion, the Philistine...Goliath...and he spoke according to the same words. So David heard them. ²⁴And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were dreadfully afraid...²⁶Then David spoke to the men who stood by him, saying...who is this uncircumcised Philistine, that he should defy the armies of the living God... (David is shocked!) ²⁸Now Eliab his oldest brother heard when he spoke to the men; and Eliab's anger was aroused against David, and he said, why did you come down here? And with whom have you left those few sheep in the wilderness? I know your pride and the insolence of your heart, for you have come down to see the battle. ²⁹And David said, what have I done now? Is there not a *cause*? (David is firm!) ³⁰Then he turned from him toward another and said the same thing; and these people answered him as the first ones did. ³¹Now when the words which David spoke were heard, they reported them to Saul; and he sent for him. (David is persistent!) ³²Then David said to Saul, Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine. (David is bold! He is offended by what the Philistine says about God.) ³³And Saul said to David, you are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth.

When your head and your heart are in the right place (as David's was) and the circumstances call for dramatic action, then your conviction rises to the top and courage takes over. That is heroism.





(N)) Three and for o'clock, What Makes a Hero, Matthew Winkler

- Three O'clock: Departure: The hero crosses the threshold from his normal, safe home and enters the special world and adventure. We're not in Kansas anymore.
- Four O'clock: Trials: Being a hero is hard work. A hero solves a riddle, slays a monster, escapes from a trap.

Let's go back to Jesus. He heard the call while in heaven and God's Holy Spirit gave him assistance.





Three O'clock:Matthew 4:1-Departure: Jesus goes to fastSpirit into the vand pray to begin his ministry.became hungry.

<u>Matthew 4:1-2</u>: (NASB) ¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he then became hungry.

Jesus departed from what was comfortable and went to something that was uncomfortable. Are we willing to depart - to leave comfort behind - and step out into the unknown? This is what heroic actions require.

<u>Matthew 4:3-4</u>: (NASB) ³And the tempter came and said to him, If you are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. ⁴But He answered and said, It is written, MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.



Four O'clock: Trials: Satan, Pharisees, doubters, etc.

Jesus had three temptations in the

wilderness. Just as with Jesus, Satan tries to get us when we are weak and when we are down. We need to focus on and follow Jesus' example because that is how we can act in a heroic way on a spiritual level.

<u>Hebrews 12:2-3</u>: (NASB) ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³For consider him who has endured such hostility by sinners against himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

For us to act in a heroic way, we need to be focused on something bigger than ourselves - the example of Jesus. A sinful world naturally repels godly heroism. Our path to victory is in the footsteps of Jesus because he is the ultimate hero!





Daring Rescue, Wesley - Unsung Hero in New York, CBS News (2011)

- (Reporter) Wesley jumped onto the tracks and thought if he could lie on top of the man and keep him from flailing, maybe the train would roll right over both of them. The clearance was exactly 21 inches; Wesley and the man, 20 1/2.
- (Witness) No way the train can stop before this gentleman could get him up off the tracks. So he covered him with his body and pushed him down to a point where the train wouldn't hit his head and held him down under the tracks while the train came and rolled right over the top of them.

Quick thinking and bold! Wesley was HOPING the train would roll over them. That is heroism!

What provokes someone to rise up to be "that" guy? Conscience? Faith? Experience?

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The Theme from "Superman" (movie)

Superman is an alien from the planet Krypton living in the present time fighting both humans and other alien forces. This is pure fantasy! People want a hero but our real "Superman" is Jesus.

David and Goliath/A hero is revealed in David

Third phase: "The response."

<u>1 Samuel 17:34-37</u>: (NKJV) ³⁴But David said to Saul, your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, ³⁵I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. (David had some heroic actions in his past.) ³⁶Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God. ³⁷Moreover David said, The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine. And Saul said to David, Go, and the LORD be with you!

David responds with faith, experience and intuitive courage - facing Goliath would require even more.

Don't panic, Wesley - Unsung Hero in New York, CBS News (2011)

- (Reporter) It gave Wesley's children the scare of their young lives.
- (Child) I thought he was going to get killed.
- (Reporter) Wesley, the scare of his too.
- (Wesley Autrey) I'm talking to him, "Sir, you can't move, I've got two kids up here looking for their father to come back. I don't know you, you don't know me, but listen, don't panic, I'm here to save you."







What a wonderful example of putting yourself out far beyond what you normally would do because the circumstances call for something different than is normally required. That is heroism!



A caller from Connecticut suggests: David and Goliath is such a magnificent story. I think God designed the incident to picture a future, spectacular deliverance of His people, Israel. Two Scriptures: <u>Zechariah 14:3</u> and <u>Zechariah 12:10</u>. Israel will have to realize their deliverance is not their own doing.

<u>1 Samuel 17:38-40</u>: (NKJV) ³⁸So Saul clothed David with his armor... ³⁹David fastened his sword to his armor and tried to walk, for he had not tested them. And David said to Saul, I cannot walk with these, for I have not tested them. So David took them off. (Intuitive courage!) ⁴⁰Then he took his staff in his hand; and he chose for himself five smooth stones from the brook, and put them in a shepherd's bag, in a pouch, which he had, and his sling was in his hand. And he drew near to the Philistine.

David did not rely on Saul's armor. He faced the giant dressed in faith in the way God had already delivered him in the past. God had anointed David earlier to represent Israel and David knew he did not have to be afraid because God was with him.

()) Five and six o'clock, What Makes a Hero, Matthew Winkler

- 5:00 APPROACH
 - Five O'clock: Approach: It's time to face the biggest ordeal, the hero's worst fear.
 - Six O'clock: Crisis: This is the hero's darkest hour; he faces death and possibly even dies, only to be reborn.





Five O'clock: Approach: Time to face his worst fear - the Gethsemane experience.

<u>Matthew 26:37-44</u>: (NASB) ³⁷And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. ³⁸Then he said to them, my soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with me. ³⁹And he went a little beyond them, and fell on his face and prayed, saying, my Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not as I will, but as You will. ⁴⁰And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping... ⁴²He went away again a second time and prayed, saying, my Father, if this cannot pass away unless I drink it, Your will be done. ⁴³Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴And he left them again, and went away and prayed a third time, saying the same thing once more.

This was the final transition Jesus had to deal with. He faced his fear and overcame it with deep, heartfelt prayer. Our worst fears can be crippling unless our feet remain fixed on the footsteps of Jesus! That is the only way for us to act in a heroic spiritual fashion.



The Approach: For Jesus it was time to face the accusation of being a blasphemer of God.

<u>Mark 15:37-39</u>: (NASB) ³⁷And Jesus uttered a loud cry, and breathed his last. ³⁸And the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹When the centurion, who was standing right in front of him, saw the way he breathed his last, he said, Truly this man was the Son of God! (Even the way he died was a witness.)



Six O'clock: Crisis: Jesus faces death on the cross and is successful. Jesus was literally crucified and raised from the dead three days later. A true hero stands no matter what the opposition. *Am I willing to stand that firmly?*

(2011) What a hero looks like, Wesley - Unsung Hero in New York, CBS News (2011)

- (Wesley Autrey) As for the guy Wesley saved, he's 20-year-old Cameron Hollopeter. And other than a few scrapes and bruises, his father says he's doing fine.
- (Father of man rescued) Mr. Autrey's instinctive and unselfish act saved our son's life.
- (Reporter) You know, the word "hero" gets thrown around a lot nowadays.
- (Wesley Autrey) What a better way to say to start off the New Year, than to say save a life.
- (Reporter) Nice to be reminded of what one really looks like.



Wesley Autrey

A Hero is revealed in David:

First phase: "The Challenge" - A powerful defiance of God and His people.

Second phase: "The Reaction" - David is shocked, firm, persistent and bold.

Third phase: "The Response" - David responds with faith, experience and intuitive courage.

(I))Part two, What is a Hero, Join the conversation

- A hero to me is my mother.
- My dad is a former vet from the Navy.
- My mom was the first woman in the Florida Air National Guard.
- I couldn't have a better hero.
- She's my hero.
- (Speaking in Spanish)
- A hero is someone who faces insurmountable circumstances, but yet still puts themself out there.
- Someone who puts the team first.
- Someone who's willing to lay it all on the line.
- Even when they're scared they give all they got and they sometimes stand up for people who can't stand up for themselves.



REASURE

David and Goliath/A hero is revealed in David Fourth phase: "The Proclamation" - Proclaiming the willingness to stand up and be heroic.

<u>1 Samuel 17:41-44</u>: (NKJV) ⁴¹So the Philistine came, and began drawing near to David, and the man who bore the shield went before him. ⁴²And when the Philistine looked about and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and good-looking. ⁴³So the Philistine said to David, Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks? And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. ⁴⁴And the Philistine said to David, Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and the beasts of the field!



Goliath proclaims his insult, his anger and his victory!

The Theme from "The Hunger Games" (movie)

This involved fictional people in a future time facing the tyranny of other fictional people.

<u>1 Samuel 17:45-47</u>: (NKJV) ⁴⁵Then David said to the Philistine, You come to me with a sword, with a spear, and with a javelin. But I come to you in the name of the Lord of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. (That is the core of the heroism of David.) ⁴⁶This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you and take your head from you. And this day I will give the carcasses of the camp of the Philistines to the birds of the air and the wild beasts of the earth, that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel. ⁴⁷Then all this assembly shall know that the LORD does not save with sword and spear; for the battle is the LORD's, and He will give you into our hands.

David reveals the true power that is driving him. David defines the battle - a mighty warrior against a man of God. David proclaims *God's victory*!

Seven and eight o'clock, What Makes a Hero, Matthew Winkler

• Seven O'clock: Treasure: As a result the hero claims some treasure, special recognition or power.

Eight o'clock: Result: This can vary between stories. Do the monsters bow down before the hero, or do they chase him as he flees to a special world?



Seven O'clock: Treasure: Ascension to treasure in heaven.

Acts 2:32-36: (NASB) ³²This Jesus God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. ³³Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says: THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, ³⁵UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET. ³⁶Therefore let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made him both Lord and Christ—this Jesus whom you crucified.



Jesus is elevated to this treasure in heaven. He ascends to the throne of God because of his heroic activities.

When we stand heroically we can experience the treasure of blessing - the treasure of peace - the treasure of doing the right thing - integrity - the treasure of serving God!

Eight O'clock: Result: What was the result of Jesus' activities of living, dying and being raised again? All are ransomed from sin and death because he paid the price.

Romans 5:18-19: (NASB)

¹⁸So then as through one transgression there resulted condemnation to all men; even so through one act of righteousness there resulted justification of life to all men. ¹⁹For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the one the many will be made righteous.

When we stand heroically in this chaotic world and stand in Jesus's footsteps, we can experience treasure. Should we stand heroically, our result can be *Well done good and faithful servant!* The result is not just good for the hero but for everyone.

Now for the battle! How does a true hero fight his battles?

The Theme from "Star Wars" (movie)

This is a hero-based story with fictional people and aliens fighting evil people and other aliens in a far future time and in a galaxy far away. Fantasy! People love the heroism of those who stand up against evil. Real heroism is not from fiction or fantasy but from the real-life experiences of Jesus Christ and those who follow him.

David and Goliath/A hero is revealed in David

Fifth phase: "Courage in action."

<u>1 Samuel 17:48-49</u>: (NKJV) ⁴⁸So it was, when the Philistine arose and came and drew near to meet David, that David hurried and ran toward the army to meet the Philistine.

What utter faith and fearlessness! The army is right behind Goliath. Seventeen-year old David is not only running to meet his opponent, but also running single handedly towards an enemy army! David is not a soldier with armor; he is a shepherd and represents God. We are supposed to live our lives with this type of courage everyday and be a hero for the sake of Christ.

⁴⁹Then David put his hand in his bag and took out a stone; and he slung it and struck the Philistine in his forehead, so that the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell on his face to the earth.

David kills Goliath with one single shot, one of five stones - why five?

(Source: Biblical commentary by McGee) However, the explanation is that Goliath had four sons. They were part of the Philistine army. David knew that when he slew the giant the four sons might want to come out and fight him.

<u>2 Samuel 21:22</u>: (NASB) These four were born to the giant in Gath, and they fell by the hand of David and by the hand of his servants.





<u>**1** Samuel 17:50-51</u>: (NKJV) ⁵⁰So David prevailed over the Philistine with a sling and a stone, and struck the Philistine and killed him.

Faith, preparedness, bold action *and the cause of God* - that is how we slay the giants in our lives!

But there was no sword in the hand of David. ⁵¹Therefore David ran and stood over the Philistine, took his sword and drew it out of its sheath and killed him, and cut off his head with it. (This was the symbol to the Philistine army that their leader was done. They were supposed to surrender.) And when the Philistines saw that their champion was dead, they fled.

When the mighty representatives of evil are struck down, those who follow evil generally flee. They are nothing without their leadership.

(I))Nine and ten o'clock, What Makes a Hero, Matthew Winkler

• Nine O'clock: Returned: After all that adventure, the hero returns to his ordinary world.



Ten O'clock: New Life: This quest has changed the hero; he has outgrown his old life.



Nine O'clock: Return: Jesus spoke of returning, not as a human being, but as a spirit being.

<u>Matthew 24:42-44</u>: (NASB) ⁴²Therefore be on the alert, for you do not know which day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But be sure of this, that if the head of the house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have been on the alert and would not have allowed his house to be broken into. ⁴⁴For this reason you also must be ready; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think he will.

Jesus is returning to earth in a powerful way. He is saying he is *coming back* in a time and in a way that we do not know. Jesus returns because he still has unfinished work to be accomplished. Christianity often only focuses on the life, death and ascension of Jesus and they miss that that part of his life was only the beginning of his work. The rest of the work has to be accomplished. The present evil system needs to be destroyed before we can usher in God's kingdom, which Jesus is in charge of.

Heroism in our everyday battles empowers us to return again to the fight - stronger in faith!



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"Everyday Heroes - 911 Song," (Verse one) Dave Carroll

Firefighters at the station listen as the tone goes out Fire alarms activated and building is showing smoke And so the engine rolls to trouble again There's people at the scene just watchin' People running out for their lives The firefighters get there and help them out And go looking for more inside Cause that's just what they do, these women and men Cause they made a promise and here they come Someone hurtin' called 9-1-1 And the siren's saying hope is on the way There's a hero racing to help a stranger today



Ten O'clock: New life: The world of mankind has new life either in earth or in heaven.

John 5:25-29: (NASB) ²⁵Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in himself; ²⁷and He gave him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. ²⁸Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

Our everyday heroism prepares us for a future, even more heroic role in humanity's destiny.

What is the ultimate result of the lives of God's heroes?

(I)) Eleven and twelve o'clock, What Makes a Hero, Matthew Winkler

Eleven O'clock: Resolution: All the tangled plot lines get straightened out.

Twelve O'clock: Status Quo: But upgraded to a new level. Nothing is quite the same once you're a hero.



Eleven O'clock: Resolution: All confusion is resolved - all know the plan of God in the Millennium.

This is the very reason that Jesus came!

ESOLUTION

<u>1 Timothy 2:3-6</u>: (NASB) ³This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; ⁴who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (A complete understanding - a full disclosure.) ⁵For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.

Jesus' footstep followers are given a mission in verse six (it is the proper time to let everyone know Christ died for all). It takes heroic attitude and effort to stand up and share that news.

Our job is to be working with Jesus to resolve all of life's confusion in the future:

<u>2 Corinthians 5:17-19</u>: (NASB) ¹⁷Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. ¹⁸Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, ¹⁹namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

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"Everyday Heroes - 911 Song," (Verse two) Dave Carroll

Saturday night in the city, the cruiser gets a dispatched call A little girl says her daddy's mad And drank a bunch of alcohol And so they head away, into trouble again The people at the house are screaming And someone yells: "he's got a gun" A little girl full of panic cries out: "Daddy don't you shoot my mom" And that's where the cops come in These women and men Cause they made a promise and here they come Someone hurtin' called 9-1-1 And the siren's saying hope is on the way There's a hero racing to help a stranger today



"There's a hero racing to help a stranger everyday." They put their life on the line every day and we do not thank them enough.

The Christian life is a race to eventually help ALL strangers for eternity!

Twelve O'clock: Status Quo, but upgraded: All mankind are ransomed, raised and tested - every human can now have a relationship with God just as Adam did in the Garden before the fall.

<u>Isaiah 35:8-10</u>: (NASB) ⁸A highway will be there, a roadway, and it will be called the Highway of Holiness. The unclean will not travel on it, but it will be for him who walks that way, and fools will not wander on it. ⁹No lion will be there, nor will any vicious beast go up on it; these will not be found there. But the redeemed will walk there, ¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD will return and come with joyful shouting to Zion, with everlasting joy upon their heads. They will find gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away.

The heroism of Jesus brings gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing will flee away. Every human will be able to have a relationship with God. All of our present trials and challenges are well worth it, IF we focus on walking in Jesus' footsteps.

(1) Be a Hero, What Makes a Hero, Matthew Winkler

• You leave your comfort zone, have an experience that transforms you, and then you recover and do it again. You don't literally slay dragons or fight Voldemort, but you face problems just as scary. Joseph Campbell said, "In the cave you fear to enter lies the treasure you seek." What is the symbolic cave you fear to enter? Auditions for the school play? Baseball try outs? Love? Listen for your call to adventure. Accept the challenge. Conquer your fear and claim the treasure you seek and then do it all over again.

"In the cave you fear to enter, lies the treasure you seek!" We can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Habakkuk 2:14: (NASB) For the earth will be filled With the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, As the waters cover the sea.



"Everyday Heroes - 911 Song," (Last verse) Dave Carroll

When people in the world need savin' The saviors who answer the call Don't get paid any more for danger Or get to pick the one's they want They just go to where the few will go To maybe lay it all on the line Just to do their job, do it one more time Cause they made a promise and here they come Someone hurtin' called 9-1-1 And the siren's saying hope is on the way There's a hero racing to help a stranger today



The world has put out a 911 call and Jesus answered it. Help and hope are on the way!

<u>Isaiah 2:2-4</u>: (NASB) ²Now it will come about that In the last days The mountain of the house of the LORD Will be established as the chief of the mountains, And will be raised above the hills; And all the nations will stream to it. ³And many peoples will come and say, come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, To the house of the God of Jacob; That He may teach us concerning His ways And that we may walk in His paths. For the law will go forth from Zion and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. ⁴And He will judge between the nations, and will render decisions for many peoples; and they will hammer their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not lift up sword against nation, and never again will they learn war.

The heroism of Jesus put the world in a position to be rescued. The end result: *never again will they learn war*.

We need to be heroes for the cause of Christ in a world gone mad. Be the hero you were called to be. Stand for Christ!

So, how do you define "hero?" For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions... Think about it...!

And now <u>even more</u> to think about... only in the Full Edition of CQ Rewind!

A few more examples of God's heroes in action:

<u>Daniel 3:1-7</u>: (NRSV) ¹King Nebuchadnezzar made a golden statue whose height was sixty cubits and whose width was six cubits; he set it up on the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. ²Then King Nebuchadnezzar sent for the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, to assemble and come to the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. ³So the satraps, the prefects, and the governors, the counselors, the treasurers, the justices, the magistrates, and all the officials of the provinces, assembled for the dedication of the statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up. When they were standing before the statue that Nebuchadnezzar had set up, ⁴the herald proclaimed aloud, You are commanded, O peoples, nations, and languages, ⁵that when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, you are to fall down and worship the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar has set up. ⁶Whoever does not fall down and worship shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ⁷Therefore, as soon as all the peoples heard the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, all the peoples, nations, and languages fell down and worshiped the golden statue that King Nebuchadnezzar had set up.

We can only speculate to whom this image was built - The King himself? One of the gods of Babylon? Whatever it was we know the challenge set before Daniel's companions. They didn't have Daniel with them and they still wouldn't compromise their worship.

As we will see in the next texts, they were being carefully watched...

Daniel 3:8-12: (NRSV) ⁸Accordingly, at this time certain Chaldeans came forward and denounced the Jews. ⁹They said to King Nebuchadnezzar, O king, live forever! ¹⁰You, O king, have made a decree, that everyone who hears the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble, shall fall down and worship the golden statue, ¹¹and whoever does not fall down and worship shall be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire. ¹²There are certain Jews whom you have appointed over the affairs of the province of Babylon:



Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. These pay no heed to you, O king. They do not serve your gods and they do not worship the golden statue that you have set up.

Not only did these Chaldeans report the three Hebrews, they made sure it was known that the Hebrews' worship was NOT of any of the gods of Babylon...

Is there maybe a little resentment here?

Daniel 3:13-15: (NRSV) ¹³Then Nebuchadnezzar in furious rage commanded that Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego be brought in; so they brought those men before the king. ¹⁴Nebuchadnezzar said to them, is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego that you do not serve my gods and you do not worship the golden statue that I have set up? ¹⁵Now if you are ready when you hear the sound of the horn, pipe, lyre, trigon, harp, drum, and entire musical ensemble to fall down and worship the statue that I have made, well and good. But if you do not worship, you shall immediately be thrown into a furnace of blazing fire, and who is the god that will deliver you out of my hands?

The King's respect is obvious, as he gives them a second chance. His fury is obvious as he does not change the consequences and his forgetfulness is obvious, as he gives no credit to the Almighty.

<u>Daniel 3:16-18</u>: (NRSV) ¹⁶Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego answered the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we have no need to present a defense to you in this matter. ¹⁷If our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the furnace of blazing fire and out of your hand, O king, let him deliver us. ¹⁸But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods and we will not worship the golden statue that you have set up.

Here is the answer of faith the answer of a hero - 'we cannot change - If our God chooses, He can deliver us. If He chooses not, then let it be known, He is God, and we will have followed Him unto death!'

God's heroes are fearless...

The buildup to the stoning of Stephen:

<u>Acts 6:12-15</u>: (NRSV) ¹²And they stirred up the people, and the elders, and the scribes, and came upon him, and caught him, and brought him to the council, ¹³and set up false witnesses, which said, This man ceaseth not to speak blasphemous words against this holy place and the law: ¹⁴For we have heard him say, that this Jesus of Nazareth shall destroy this place, and shall change the customs which Moses delivered unto us. ¹⁵And all that sat in the counsel and looked steadfastly on him, saw his face as it had been the face of an angel. <u>Acts 7:1-2</u>: ¹Then said the high priest, are these things so? ²And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham...

And Stephen witnessed the plan to them...

God's heroes stand ready to be offered...

The end of Stephen's walk:

<u>Acts 7:54-60</u>: (NRSV) ⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶Look, he said, I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God! ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, Lord, do not hold this sin against them. When he had said this, he died.



The cause of the Gospel for both Jews and Gentiles:

<u>Romans 15:5-14</u>: (NKJV) ⁵Now may the God of patience and comfort grant you to be likeminded toward one another, according to Christ Jesus, ⁶that you may with one mind and one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Therefore receive one another, just as Christ also received us, to the glory of God. ⁸Now I say that Jesus Christ has become a servant to the circumcision for the truth of God, to confirm the promises made to the fathers, ⁹and that the Gentiles might glorify God for His mercy, as it is written: For this reason I will confess to You among the Gentiles, and sing to Your name. ¹⁰And again he says: Rejoice, O Gentiles, with His people! ¹¹And again: Praise the LORD, all you Gentiles! Laud Him, all you peoples! ¹²And again, Isaiah says: There shall be a root of Jesse; and He who shall rise to reign over the Gentiles, in Him the Gentiles shall hope. ¹³Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. ¹⁴Now I myself am confident concerning you, my brethren, that you also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another.

The cause of Christ is worth giving your life for:

<u>Philippians 1:15-21</u>: (NKJV) ¹⁵Some indeed preach Christ even from envy and strife, and some also from goodwill: ¹⁶The former preach Christ from selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing to add affliction to my chains; ¹⁷but the latter out of love, knowing that I am appointed for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁸What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice. ¹⁹For I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayer and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, ²⁰according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.