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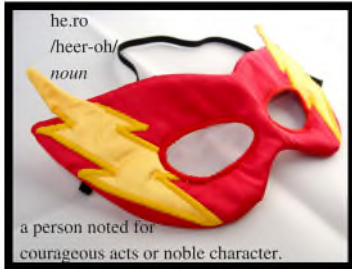
Each week, the **Summary Only** version provides you with approximately four pages of brief excerpts from the program, along with Scripture citations.

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The **FULL EDITION** of approximately 10-12 pages includes comprehensive excerpts from the program, fully quoted Scriptures, graphics, illustrations, and even extra study points that time prevented us from covering during the live program.

How Do You Define "Hero"?

1 Samuel 17:45: (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?

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:

1 Samuel 17:3-9: 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.

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.

 **Introduction through one and two o’clock, What Makes a Hero, Matthew Winkler**

- *What do Harry Potter, Katniss Everdeen, 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.

Jesus heard the call in the heavenly realm:

Isaiah 6:8: 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).

Matthew 3:13-17: 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).



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



Two O'clock:
Assistance: At Jesus' baptism he
received the Holy Spirit of God.

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

David and Goliath/A hero is revealed in David
Second phase: "The Reaction."

1 Samuel 17:11,16 Meanwhile, Jesse, David's father, sent David to the battlefield with supplies for his three oldest brothers: 1 Samuel 17:22-23: 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.



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.*



Three O'clock:
Departure: Jesus goes to fast
and pray to begin his ministry.

Let's go back to Jesus. He heard the call while in heaven and God's Holy Spirit gave him assistance. Matthew 4:1-2: 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.

Matthew 4:3-4: 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.

Hebrews 12:2-3: 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!



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

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

David and Goliath/A hero is revealed in David

Third phase: "The response." 1 Samuel 17:34-37: David responds with faith, experience and intuitive courage - facing Goliath would require even more.

1 Samuel 17:38-40: 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*

- *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.*

Matthew 26:37-44: 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.



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

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

Mark 15:37-39: (Even the way he died was a witness.) 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?

David and Goliath/A hero is revealed in David

Fourth phase: "The Proclamation" - Proclaiming the willingness to stand up and be heroic.

1 Samuel 17:41-44: Goliath proclaims his insult, his anger and his victory!

1 Samuel 17:45-47: 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?*

Acts 2:32-36: 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!



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

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: 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?

David and Goliath/A hero is revealed in David

Fifth phase: "Courage in action." 1 Samuel 17:48-49: 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.

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.

2 Samuel 21:22: (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.*

1 Samuel 17:50-51: (NKJV) ⁵⁰*So 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.



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.*

Matthew 24:42-44: 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!



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

John 5:25-29: Our everyday heroism prepares us for a future, even more heroic role in humanity's destiny.



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.*



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

This is the very reason that Jesus came! 1 Timothy 2:3-6: 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.



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

Our job is to be working with Jesus to resolve all of life's confusion in the future:
2 Corinthians 5:17-19

Isaiah 35:8-10: 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.



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.



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.*

Habakkuk 2:14 Isaiah 2:2-4: 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...!*