

## Looking for Some Heroes

January 12, 2014

Cadre opportunity

### Start with Prayer

#### Intro: What Makes A Hero?

**Hebrews chapter 11 is often referred to as the Faith chapter and for good reason. Every person referred to spoken of in this chapter did what they did because of their willingness to step out in faith. But as I read this I think of them as Heroes. What are Heroes? They are the ones who will do what someone else wouldn't be willing to do. They run in when others run away. They respond when others ignore. So I got to thinking about this and asked myself, "What makes someone a Hero? The first thing that came to my mind was Superhero's. What makes them superheroes? For some it is their supernatural power, almost always they have awesome gadgets and always, and I mean always, they need a cool superhero suit.**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DK8q9SMUkm0> ( no video just sound)

Start this now.

**A. Illustration: Sometimes I wonder if it is the suit that really makes the hero, so today, before your eyes, we will transform one of our teens into a Super Hero.**

*Music to play during this time (background)*

*Supplies: Cape, mask, logo, utility belt, goggles, helmet, gloves and boots(wrap in foil) laser pointer. Big fan to blow cape. Logo*

**Okay now is \_\_\_\_\_ a superhero? Let's check. Do you have your belt? Check.**

**Do you have your goggles'? Check. Cool Suit? Check. Cape? Check. Gadgets? Check. Supernatural Power?.....(no response) Supernatural Power?.....(no response) hmmmmmm. (Why don't you take a seat for a minute and let's figure out how to get you some supernatural power.)**

## Fade music out

### I. Choosing to be a Hero.

A. Okay so we had everything but the supernatural power. If we look back to Hebrews and consider those people heroes' what was their supernatural power? Their supernatural power was their faith and obedience. It was their willingness to run in, act when others didn't. It was their ability to see when others couldn't. **It was their willingness to do what God created them to do even when they couldn't see the results..** But what about us, we are just ordinary people. We aren't THOSE people. They were extraordinary.

Let's Read

*1 Peter 4:10-11*

*<sup>10</sup> God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another. <sup>11</sup> Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others? Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen*

In 1 Peter it says that we each have been given a gift and that we are to use them well to serve one another. The people listed in the 11<sup>th</sup> chapter of Hebrews that we just read were given a gift, a talent, a responsibility, a belief and by faith they chose to act upon that. And because they did history was changed.

But they were not extraordinary people, they were the ordinary.

Abel was just a son bringing an offering.

Noah was a man who people laughed at and thought was crazy that built a boat on dry ground.

Abraham was a wanderer and a foreigner following a voice he didn't know.

Sarah was unable to have a child and continued to believe she would have a baby even when it wasn't humanly possible.

Moses was reckless, impatient and fearful for a time.

Rahab was a prostitute.

And the list goes on and on. We see them as extraordinary because we see what became because of their lives and their choices. They didn't see that. They only hoped and believed for it. They were just using their gifts and acting on what God told them and what He had entrusted to them. **What is it that you possess that God would be wanting you to use to affect the world? What Gifts do you possess? What talents do you have? What abilities are yours? What is your passion?**

The people in chapter 11, they were the ones no one would expect. They were the ones God choose to change the world. Here is an inspirational speech to regular people turned superheroes.

**B. Mystery Men Clip**

**C. So what can this mean for you? Each of you, from the youngest to the oldest have been given a gift, a talent, an ability, a passion by God. He wants you to use it. He doesn't want you to say, "I'll keep that for myself", "Oh, that isn't very important." "Others are better at that than me." He wants you to take a step of faith, just like the heroes of old and believe God and obey. If He gave it to you isn't it for a purpose? If he blessed you with a talent or ability, shouldn't you be using it? If you have a passion, isn't it wrong to withhold that from the body of Christ? There are so many ways to plug in and use your gifts. You may look around and say I don't see a place to fit. Have you asked?**

**II. Finding your supernatural power.**

**A. Romans 12:6-8** <sup>6</sup> In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well. So if God has given you the ability to prophesy, speak out with as much faith as God has given you. <sup>7</sup> If your gift is serving others, serve them well. If you are a teacher,

teach well. <sup>8</sup> If your gift is to encourage others, be encouraging. If it is giving, give generously. If God has given you leadership ability, take the responsibility seriously. And if you have a gift for showing kindness to others, do it gladly.

- B. We should start using the gifts, talents, and abilities that you have to glorify God and impact the world. Everyone has been given something to use. What is keeping you from being a hero? Is it fear, or time, or doubt? What excuses do you use that keep you from being involved and obeying God? I get it. I was the same way at one time. When I got married I was adamant that I didn't want to be in charge of anything, I didn't want to be up front, etc. Over time though I started allowing God to use me and my gifts and abilities and stopped putting all the restrictions on Him in my life. Today, I'm standing in front of you doing something I never thought I would be able to do and never thought I would enjoy doing it. We can't put the restrictions on God's move in our life because of fear or insecurity.

**A great deal of talent is lost to the world for the want of a little courage. - Sydney Smith**

- C. (Have him come back up) We went through the check list of all the things that a super hero should have but when we got to the supernatural powers he didn't say anything. But I say check. Why? **Because when Jesus takes residence in you the Holy Spirit empowers you and you now have supernatural powers.**

More than Super conquerors.

You may not walk through walls, you may not be able to lift tall buildings but you are empowered to do supernatural things, to use all the gifts and talents God has given you, and to supernaturally change the world one life at a time. **You are a hero.**

- III. **Conclusion:** I represent one of the ministries in this family of faith, the youth ministry. I serve students from grades 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade. We are teaching our students about becoming Heroes by using the gifts and

abilities that God has given them right now. We fully believe that they can change their world, their school and their friends lives by being all that God has created them to be. **Do you believe that too?**

**Are you being all God has created you to be?** Are you plugged in at COTR? Do you have a place of belonging or involvement? Whether you have been here 3 weeks or 30 years there is a place for you.

There is a quote by George Lucas.... **Everybody has talent; it's just a matter of moving around until you've discovered what it is.**

Maybe you aren't using your gifts because you haven't discovered it yet. That's okay, let us help you do that, experiment. Try different things. We also do a DISC profile in our connect class that helps with that as well. Everyone has a gift.

A community can use all the skills of its people. - Maori proverb

Can I speak to you for a minute from a mother's heart? I need for you to use your gifts to show my children that all gifts are important. That all gifts are necessary and beautiful in the family of Christ. I need for my daughter to see other people using their poetic and writing gifts in her church family for the glory of God and building up of the church family. I need for my son to see men using their automotive gifts for the glory of God and to serve the family of Christ. See these are things we don't see used often enough but they are still important gifts and talents and should be utilized. Will you be a hero for them?

Now let me speak to you from a youth pastor's heart. We have more than 90 teenagers that call COTR their church home. They are all so unique and interesting. I wish I was smart enough and friendly enough and had enough time to really get to know each and every one of them and be able to be there for all of them any time they needed. The reality is, I can't. There is only one of me. I need heroes in their lives that will love them, Heroes that will give them time, heroes that will listen, heroes that will pray. Heroes that will be present. Some of you in this room are those Heroes. God is wanting to use you supernaturally to love a teen, to serve a teen, and to be the

catalyst in their life that cause them to grab ahold of Jesus and never let go.

So I ask you, **“Will you be a Hero?”** **We need you to be a Hero!**