

The Hero in the Arena

The Man in the Arena

"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."

– Theodor Roosevelt, 1910

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Jesus had status!

Philippians 2:6-8

Who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

Isaiah 53 prophetically describes Jesus this way:

- He would have no form or majesty that we should behold Him
- Despised and rejected
- Not esteemed
- Acquainted with grief
- Smitten by God and afflicted
- Pierced
- Crushed
- Wounded
- Oppressed
- Judged

Jesus lived His life in the arena!

Jesus redefines what a HERO looks like.

- **A HERO is humble.**

John 1:1-3

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

- **A HERO is a servant.**

Mark 10:45

For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

- Jesus lived for the benefit of others. Everywhere He showed up, things got better because of His willingness to serve.

- **A HERO is dependent.**

John 5:19

So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

Luke 5:16

But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray

- Jesus could only do the Father’s will. Jesus would regularly stow away with the Father; He was getting His authority and power from Him.

- **A HERO is brave.**

Matthew 26:38-39

Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.”

- Jesus is the ultimate picture of vulnerability.

“Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did He willingly endure such hardship? Why did He embrace the cross?”

So that you could be the **HERO** in your own story. So that you would have the courage to get up once you’ve been knocked down!

You are:

Saints – Members of God’s House

Sons of God – Joint Heirs with Jesus!

Right – Justified and Forgiven – past, present, and future

Empowered Holy Spirit Power

Anointed – Capable and Gifted

Loved – Not Based on Behavior!

Protected

Strong

If you move through life living as anything but a **HERO** - you are cheapening the sacrifice of Jesus!

Cheap Seaters:

Play it safe

Judge others

Are paralyzed by fear