

April 19, 2017

EXTREME FAITH

What makes a hero?

"A hero is a person, who makes a radial impact on another person causing that person to be changed for the better..." "The radical change occurs when you use your strength to serve..." "As you jump into situations to help others you are letting them know they matter..."

What Makes A Hero?

*TAKE RISK AND JUMP ON IN...
TAKE RISK AND JUMP ON IN...*

WHAT MAKES A HERO?

Ready to Risk Everything?...

How many risk do you take each day? What do you call a risk? Heroes take risk, every time they step out to help someone. There is tension in taking risk, otherwise it would not be a risk at all. So follow along with me as we look at risk.

There is risk in being a hero, like once you decide to be a hero your life will never be the same, the people you help might not even want your help, you might fail along the way or you might find out life is not just about you as you become a hero. Risk are everywhere but as a hero the risk you take are for other people.

We all take risk, we take them everyday, but most of the risk that we take are for ourselves and we benefit from them. A hero takes risk for other people and for them to benefit. Which means you could lose something for someone else's sake. Dictionary.com defines risk this way: "exposure to the chance of injury or loss; a hazard or dangerous chance" so you could get hurt or you could lose something, when you step out as a hero to help someone.

Romans 15:2b-3 puts it this way. "Asking ourselves, "How can I help?" That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding

people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it." Jesus jumped right into our troubles and took risks to save us. A hero is a person who jumps right on in and helps people out of their troubles.

When were you saved by a hero? Can you remember a time that someone came along and took risk for you? Chances are it has happened to you. The person who came in to help you out did not ask if you wanted help, they did not ask themselves if they should help, they just jumped in and helped. We need to do the same. We need to ask "How can I help?" Then we need to jump in and help. It is a risk, but that is what heroes take everyday. It is in the fabric of a hero.

We need to only look to the hero Jesus Christ to know what a hero is and what a hero does. So step out and become a hero. Ask "How can I help?" Then do something to change and impact the person who needs help! Take a risk and be a hero to someone who needs a hero.

The person you help will never be the same and you will never be the same.



We are all capable and each one of us has a chance to be a hero as believers in Jesus. Ephesians 2:10 puts it this way: For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. God already has a plan for each of us to be a hero, but we have to step out in faith and follow Him to the work that He has given us to do. God created heroes, and in you there is a hero that He longs to see take action!

Real Life Hero's

"Making a Better World"

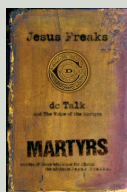
Lieutenant Greco

Romania circa 1948

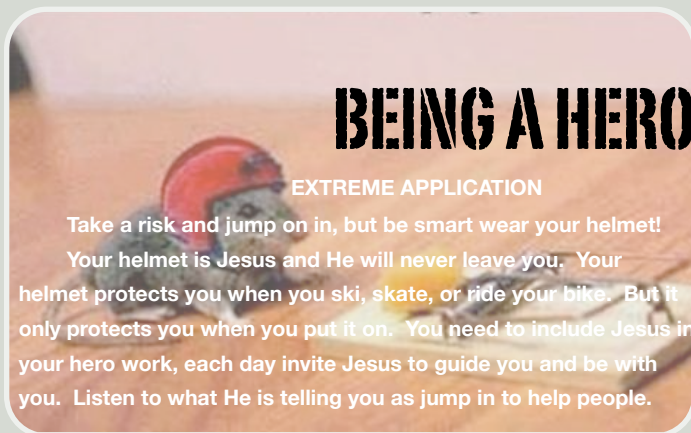
The tough young lieutenant faced Richard Wurmbrand, questioning him on his many activities with the underground church. After accusing him of lying about his contacts, Greco ordered him to write out all the rules Wurmbrand had broken while in prison. Wurmbrand willingly sat at the table writing out his Declaration " It had been two years since he had held a pen, so it was difficult to write. After he had listed all the rules he had « broken, he ended his confession with, "I have never spoken against the Communists. I am a disciple of Christ, who has given us love for our enemies. I understand them and pray for their conversion so that they will become my brothers in the faith" Lieutenant Greco had been indoctrinated with the belief that Communism was the answer to the worlds problems. He sincerely believed that he was making a better world, but when he read the "Declaration," he was overwhelmed. How could Wurmbrand write of his love for a government that had put him in prison and tortured him for so many years? Greco scoffed, "This is one of your Christian commandments that no one can keep" Wurmbrand looked at the Lieutenant, his eyes filled with the love of God, and responded, "It's not a matter of keeping a commandment. When I became a Christian, it was as if I had been reborn, with a new character full of love. Just as only water can flow from a spring, so only love can come from a loving heart" Over the years, Wurmbrand had many other opportunities to talk about God's love with Lieutenant Greco. Before he was released, in his own prison cell, Wurmbrand had the wonderful privilege of seeing Greco confess Christ.

Jesus Freaks love their enemies. Others say it is too hard — impossible in fact — which is true, unless God does it for you and through you. It is not ever easy to pray for your enemies, but it works. As you pray for prisoners in restricted countries around the world, pray that Gods love will be evident in their lives and that it would change the hearts of their tormentors as it changed Lieutenant Greco.

God, accept all my sufferings, my tiredness, my humiliations, my tears, my nostalgia, my being hungry, my suffering of cold, all the bitterness accumulated in mysoul.. Dear Lord, have pity on those who persecute and torture us day and night Grant them, too, the divine grace of knowing the sweetness and happiness of Your love. Woman prisoner in Siberia Vorkuta, U.S.S.R. circa 1960s



Featured Story
from the book
Jesus Freaks dc
Talk and the
voice of the
Martyrs



Think About it (The tension in taking a risk)

Each week we have been looking at the defining elements of "What Makes a Hero," we have sought to define what makes a hero, we have looked at the concept that "strength is for service not status." This week we are looking at the concept that a "Hero takes risk and jumps in." Wow when I think of tension, this is a big area, I mean to take a risk well it's a risk. A Risk implies that I might lose something, if it was a risk for me well that might be okay, or it might not be okay. But to take a risk for someone else? That's a tension for sure, I have to make the decision, will I risk losing something for someone else?

Look at it this way, we all know people who do not know Jesus, and well we have a decision to make. Do we share with them what we know about Jesus or do we stay silent. Just thinking about sharing Jesus with our friends can create a tension in us. Right away we start to question ourselves, what do we really know about Jesus? Do we really have a right to risk sharing Jesus with our friends. What if they reject Jesus are they rejecting us?

These are all great thoughts, but in the end we have to decide if we will take the risk and share Jesus with our friends. For me there is no bigger answer than Jesus to any problem that I might face, or any problem that any one I know might face. To me He is the answer, so as I jump in to help people I have to be ready to share Jesus as the answer. So what about you how will you be a hero? How will you help your friends? What will you do? How will you be a hero?



Dig In

Read Romans 15 1-2 (The Message) Those of us who are strong and able in the faith need to step in and lend a hand to those who falter, and not just do what is most convenient for us. Strength is for service, not status. 2 Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, "How can I help?" 3 **That's exactly what Jesus did. He didn't make it easy for himself by avoiding people's troubles, but waded right in and helped out. "I took on the troubles of the troubled," is the way Scripture puts it.**

What is the biggest risk you have ever taken?

What is the risk in getting involved and helping others?

What is the risk in telling other people about Jesus?

What do you think about what Jesus did, Read Romans 15:3? Why do you think He did what He did?

Hero: "Takes Risks and Jumps Right In"

BECOMING A

TAKE SOME TIME AND JOURNAL.

Look it over, read the story again, dig into the questions and write out your thoughts...



Living life with
Extreme faith
and
Extreme vision

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