

Notes from Sunday 26th June 2011

Series: Everyday Heroes

How many of us would like to be a hero? Even if it's just once or twice?

God doesn't want us to be ordinary, average or mediocre. He wants to empower us to be involved in his plans.

God's plans will happen regardless of whether we individually get involved. He wants people who will step up and engage with Him and what he is doing. Not just stand back and watch what He is doing.

The Kingdom of God is not built on one or two super heroes. Just like the success of a great sports team doesn't rest on one or two star players. It takes effort and commitment from all members. Everyone needs to step up to the plate.

Greater things begin when everyday people step up and do what they can with what they have.

People like Nelson Mandela and Ghandi didn't see themselves as super heroes. They were ordinary people who stood up to be counted. They did what they could to change the environment they lived in using the skills they had.

It doesn't mean everyone will get everything right. But failing isn't getting something wrong, it's not trying in the first place.

John 14:12-13

Jesus tells his disciples they'll do not only what He has been doing, but greater things. He is preparing them for when He is no longer with them in person. Just like parents prepare their children for the time when they leave home and move into independence or when parents are no longer there.

John 14: 1-4

Jesus tells His disciples that He's going to prepare a place for them at His Father's house and then He'll come and get them.

V 5-11

Jesus says that everything He did was the Father working through Him. That Jesus and God are one and the same.

The disciples didn't fully understand this at the time. They didn't understand the bigger picture. Many had left businesses, houses, family, etc to follow Jesus. They wanted to know what was next. Where to now? Especially as He told them He was leaving them to go prepare a place for them somewhere else. And they were supposed to wait for Him to come back for them.

In order to achieve something we need to have a long distance vision. If you're going for a walk or a bike ride , etc, it's no point only fixing your goal on the top of the next hill. When you get there you have to rethink your goal. You need to have a long distance goal. This may include many hills and a lot of distance. But you have a destination in mind that's further than just where you can see to at this point in time. This gives you a purpose.

God is a God of increase and expansion. His kingdom is growing and expanding. As we mature in our faith, our capacity for works grows and expands.

The disciples, while they were waiting for Jesus to come back and get them, didn't idly wait. They did something with their lives. They made a difference. 1000's of people accepted Jesus in their lives because the disciples did what they could. They didn't just hang around waiting for Jesus. God's kingdom increased. This growth has consistently occurred over the past 2000 years since the time of Jesus.

A woman was healed when she touched the hem of Jesus's garment. Jesus said His disciples would do even greater things.

Acts 5:12-16

Acts 19:11-12.

John 14:15

Jesus didn't leave us alone while we are waiting for His return. He sent us His Holy Spirit. When we are full of the Holy Spirit we can achieve the will of God. And we can achieve great things.

Through His Holy Spirit He gave us all gifts that we can use to make a difference.

We don't all receive the same gift. Some are prophets, some teachers, some apostles, some healers, etc. But the gifts are unified by a common mission. To expand the Kingdom of God.

Discussion questions:

Which gift/s do you feel you have received?

How, where and for what purpose could the gifts we receive be used?

You may ask can I make a difference? Can I do great things? If you keep asking the question and waiting for an answer you won't achieve anything. NIKE have a great saying - JUST DO IT!!

Take hold of the opportunity in front of you and do what you can. No matter how big or small it seems. Use the gifts and skills God has given you. Trust in God's strength.

John 4:1-38 (in particular v 27 - 38)

When the disciples get back, Jesus is not hungry. He tells them He has food to eat they know nothing about.

They think He has got food from somewhere else.

Doing God's work is nourishing. It's refreshing.

Jesus says the harvest is ready. If we are willing to get involved with God's will.

How do you do it?

John 14

1. Ask anything in Jesus's name and He will do it.
2. Ask in accordance with God's will.
3. Ask for things in order to achieve God's purpose.

Discussion question:

How do we ask in accordance with God's will?

Greater doesn't just mean sensational.

Just attend to the small things. A small pebble dropped in the water still creates a large ripple way beyond just where it dropped.

