

Notes from Service on Sunday 10th July 2011

Series: Everyday Heroes

John 14:12

Everyday people can be everyday heroes for Jesus.

Most people don't want to be just average. Dave gave the example that as a teenager he didn't want to grow up to live an average, boring life. He often used to see adults in his church as conservative, boring people. He didn't want to grow up like that.

You may be an average person in such things as IQ, academic achievement, skills, knowledge, etc. But you can achieve far greater than average things in God's kingdom. When God leads us, He gives us opportunities that we didn't think possible. We just have to do what we can, where we are, with what we've been given.

How can we be an Everyday Hero?

Look at **Galatians 3:1**

1. Keep Jesus in clear focus.

What Jesus has done for us is clear enough. He left Heaven. He left His home and His Father for us. (**John 1:14**)

When we first come to Jesus and accept Him into our life, we see Him so clearly. We're excited, passionate. We think we're going to go out and change the world single handed. But as we go along in our Christian walk, when the initial 'honeymoon' phase finishes and we settle into a steadier pace, our focus on Jesus can blur at times.

It's a bit like when we put on glasses (for those who need them) and suddenly everything is crisp, clear, defined, focused. Then later when you take them off, everything goes a bit blurry again. You lose focus.

When we lose focus side issues can become a distraction. We can forget about relationship and God's grace and get caught up in laws and rules.

Discussion questions:

What issues have you found yourself caught up in (or could you get caught up in) at times when your focus 'has got a little blurred'?

How do we stay focused on Jesus?

2. Let go of our rights.

Phil 2:6–8

Jesus didn't hold onto his status of equality with God. He gave it all up to serve mankind and to die a sinner's death for our salvation. His mission was more important than his rights.

An example is the method sometimes used to catch monkeys. Put some food in a jar that has an opening big enough to get their hand in, but too small to get their clenched fist out. They don't want to let go of their prize (the food) so they get trapped.

It can sometimes be easy to focus on our rights, the things we feel we are entitled to. This can get in the way of us achieving our purpose. It can get in the way of our freedom in Christ. And it can affect our relationships with other people. We can lose sight of what is important.

Matt 19:13

The disciples tried to stop parents from bringing their children to Jesus. Why did they have a problem with children? They were focused on managing His impressive ministry. The sick and the dying were more important. The miracles He performed were going to impress and have an impact.. You could just imagine them telling the parents "You stand over there I'll make sure Jesus talks to you in a minute!"

When we get caught up with our rights and our agenda we stop seeing the needs of the people who are right next to us. We become self focused.

Jesus rebuked His disciples saying the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these. When we come into God's kingdom we should be like a child.

Discussion questions:

What do you think Jesus meant when He said that "the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these [children]"?

What rights can we tend to hold onto?

3. Accept the fact that you are not smart enough or strong enough.

Gal 3:2–4

How do we get our salvation? Through works, or by grace?

If we're not smart enough or strong enough to gain our salvation through our own efforts to begin with, how do we think we are going to perfect the process?

Perfectionists tend to have the attitude of "If I'm not going to be able to do it perfectly, I might as well not bother starting it." We have to realise that perfection is an unrealistic standard to expect to reach. That doesn't mean we stop doing things well.

We should aim for excellence, that is, the best we can do. With God's strength working through us, we can achieve great things.

4. Trust Jesus to do the work in us

Gal 3:5-6

Everyday we wish we were smarter, stronger, wiser. "God, if only I could....."

There are a whole lot of things we're not good at.

And as good as we might be at other things there is always someone better.

And before a perfect God it doesn't even rate

Phil 4:13

But we can do all things through God who strengthens us.

5. Take your everyday life and place it before God as an offering

Rom 12:1-2

Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for Him.

We can all be everyday heroes. It's not hard. The decision to do it and to give everything over to God can be difficult. But once we make that decision and step out in faith, it's not hard.

Isaiah 40:31

Wait, look, hope, expect.

We need to seek Him and rely upon Him instead of our own strength. In our own strength we will grow weary and get tired. But if we wait on God we won't. He will renew our strength.

Discussion:

Share experiences you've had where God has renewed your strength and lifted you up on wings like eagles.

