

Notes from the Service on Sunday 19th June am
Series: Everyday Heroes

Discussion question:

How would you define or describe a hero?

Definitions Dave gave:

1. a person who is admired or idealised for courage, outstanding achievements or noble qualities
2. The chief male character in a book, play, or movie, who is typically identified with good qualities and with whom the reader is expected to sympathise.

Discussion questions:

Do you have a hero in your world?

Have you ever felt like a hero?

Have you ever wanted to be a hero?

Dave gave the example of a person called Earnest Shackleton.

Shackleton became a massive Hero after saving his men from certain death after their boat the *Endurance* was caught in the ice of Antarctica and then eventually crushed and sunk.

Inside of us all there is a yearning to be a hero.

A desire to make a difference.

A desire to have a purpose.

But too often we can be too scared to step up and be a hero. It's not the Australian way.

Too often we label anyone who is trying a bit hard or is a bit involved in self promotion sarcastically as a hero.

That thinking is about being average. It encourages and celebrates mediocrity.

How did Jesus deal with a group of ambitious teenagers?

Matthew 20:20-28

The Australian response to the mothers question would be, "Who do you think you are?"

But Jesus didn't respond like this.

His question to James and John was “Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?” Or in other words, Can you handle the price of fame? Then he responds that this isn’t his decision but God the Father’s.

When the other 10 disciples hear of the request they are indignant. But Jesus doesn’t humiliate them or chastise them.

He goes on to talk about servant leadership. The type of leadership that makes a difference. He said he wasn’t sent here to be served, but to serve.

Read **John 14:12-13**

This is all about kingdom living.

It’s about confident living. Not confidence in our selves but confidence in what Jesus is doing in us and through us.

In John 17: 6-25 (particularly v15 and 20) Jesus asks God not to take them [his disciples] out. He asks that the disciples stay here a while longer so they can make a difference. So they can spread the gospel.

Why don’t we step up to be a hero?
Not someone who is looking for their own fame and notoriety, but someone who dares to believe that a life following Jesus is not a mediocre life.

Being a hero often means sacrificing your own individual gain for the benefit of another or for the greater good.

Discussion question:

What examples can you think of in your own life when you’ve had to sacrifice your own gain or reputation for the good of someone else?

Look at the book of Phillipians.

This letter was written by Paul to an everyday church full of everyday people. He wrote it while he was under arrest in Rome. This means he was chained between two Roman soldiers.

He wasn’t able to write the words himself, so he had to dictate the letter to a scribe. His faith and positivity in the circumstances he was in were a huge encouragement to the church back then. But they are the inspired word of God and they continue to encourage the church now.

Another effect was that the Roman soldiers who heard his words were getting saved. The church was growing in Caesar’s own house right in the middle of the Roman Empire.

Philippians 1:6

We can be confident that God will continue the work that He started in each of us. He won't give up on us or forsake us. We have no reason to give up on Him.

If you want to step up and be an everyday hero...
It's about doing what you can with what you have been given.

Qualities of a Hero

- Everyday heroes are glad. See Phil 3:1
Rejoicing safeguards your faith
It prevents you from becoming jaded or cynical.

When work is tough, when the economy is hard going,
when the kids are taking you to your limit,
When your relationships are challenging
When your health is a challenge

Rejoice in all things.
Our confidence is in God, not in our circumstances.

Discussion question:

How have you or how can you put this into practice in your life?

How can we support each other in this process?

- Every day heroes are aware. Phil 3:2-4
No-one is immune from becoming religious. From allowing laws to get in the way of relationship with Jesus.

We should celebrate the freedom we have in Christ.
What religion does is take away our Joy. We become judgemental.

Discussion question:

What sort of things can we get 'religious' about?

- Everyday heroes are confident in what Christ has done. Phil 3:3-11

Religion puts its trust in human effort. It trusts in our works for salvation. But it is by grace that we are saved. Nothing we can do can buy our salvation.

Paul is saying that if we could put our faith in our own ability to keep the laws, then he had it all. But he counts it as nothing because his confidence is in Jesus.

- Everyday heroes value their relationship with Jesus..

When we value something we give it priority. It's easy to value something we have that is new, e.g. a car, etc. We look after it and keep it shiny. But eventually the novelty wears off.

We need to keep our relationship with Jesus in a place of priority and continue to value it.

And we need to keep hold of the progress we have already made.
Phil:12-16.

Discussion questions:

How can we ensure that we continue to value our relationship with Jesus?

What can you do in your life now to be an everyday hero?