



HEROES!

Be Like That!

The world needs heroes. Those who, complete with flaws and weaknesses, are made to lead and make sacrifices in ways that God has prepared beforehand. There is a hero in each of us. Genuine heroes not only see a cause to live for but one that is worth dying for. The hero is the one who is willing to engage in the journey ahead that is wrought with danger - knowing the stakes could demand the ultimate sacrifice. God has invited you into a great adventure of heroic proportions. You may not realize how you can change a life, or two, or twenty, or twenty thousand, but the heart of heroism has been placed inside of you. It needs to be awakened! God invites us to play a significant role in His redemptive story. In this series we will learn from the model of King David and many other godly biblical characters, along with great heroes throughout history, how to heed the call to be a hero wherever God has placed you. King David's story reveals how the extraordinary can be found within the ordinary man as he faces the elements, challenges, and learns from the lessons of everyday life. These heroes reflect the call each man faces. This series will challenge you to embrace the hero within. Be Like That!

Heroes – The Heart of Purpose!

I Samuel 16:7(ESV), II Samuel 22:29-31, Ephesians 2:8-10; 4:1-3

THE WORLD NEEDS HEROES!

1. **Will You Answer the Call?** > There is no shortage of heroes. There is only a short supply of belief that we are each called to be a hero. While we are different in backgrounds and goals, we are united by our experience of struggles, pain, joy, and dreams. What binds us is “choice.” God gave us choice, and our choices are reflected daily.
2. **What Makes a Hero?** > We are all special (Romans 12:6-8). As a Hero, your call is to give your all—for someone else. This is your measure; this is your mission.
3. **Soaring Beyond Your Circle** > There is no shortage of opportunities for you to be a hero. Your capacity for love and transformation starts in your closest circle: Family and Friends. Heroes shift their focus from problems that appear insurmountable to solutions that are personal.
4. **Answering the Urgent Call** > Any action done in a moment of despair that helps to protect and restore a person’s sense of safety and peace can be called an act of heroism. The world takes notice when an everyday person embraces heroic sacrifice. Will you make the leap, be vulnerable enough to love even those who annoy you, and take the risk of caring for people who can’t give you anything in return? YOU are needed!

Hero: The Story of David – NAMES!

I Samuel 16:1-13

1. **Looking for a Man** > The news spread rapidly: God's prophet was approaching the village of Bethlehem. What had they done wrong? Who had sinned? But the anxiety soon gave way to anticipation. Samuel let them know that he had come to lead them in festive worship, gather them in celebration before God. Samuel was out looking for a replacement for King Saul.
2. **No One Qualified** > Samuel's visit was more than a village-wide celebration. He was interested in a local farmer named Jesse and his eight sons. Having located Jesse and his sons, Samuel proceeded to interview and examine each of them. Eliab, the eldest son and a swaggering bully, was first. Abinadab, the next, was an intellectual snob. Shammah, also called Shimea, was third. After the third son, the Bible quits naming.
3. **God's Man** > David enters the story unnamed, dismissively referred to by his father as "the baby brother"—in Hebrew, *haqqaton*, the youngest. *Haqqaton* carries undertones of insignificance, of not counting for very much—certainly not a prime candidate for prestigious work. The family runt. David was chosen not for what anybody saw in him—not his father, his brothers, not even Samuel—but because of what God saw in him. David was chosen and anointed by God through Samuel to live to God's glory.

Hero: An Ordinary Person!

1. **Who?** > David is an ordinary person. David's story provides more plot and detail, more characters and landscape than any other in Scripture to show us how to live entirely before and in response to God. David was "just" a layperson. His father omitted to present him to Samuel. To his brothers he was a nonentity. Worse, as we learn from examining his genealogy, he had bad blood in his family tree, hated and despised Moabite blood (Ruth 4:18-24; Matthew 1:5,6).
2. **Inclusion** > The choice of David, the runt and the shepherd, to be anointed, to be a sign and representative of God's working presence in human life and history, is surely intended to convey a sense of inclusion to all ordinary men and women, the plain folk, the undistinguished in the eyes of their neighbors, those lacking social status and peer recognition. Election into God's purposes isn't based on proven ability or potential promise.
3. **A Culture of Experts and Professionals** > We regard the layperson as a near idiot, competent only when consulting with or deferring to the expert. We turn the care of our bodies over to medical experts. Result? Continually worsening per-capita health. We turn responsibility for our learning over to the educational experts. Result? A population unable to think for itself, ignorant of most human literature and history. We turn responsibility for developing and repairing personal relationships over to counselors. Result? Experiences of intimacy at all-time lows, emotional health alarmingly bad, friendships rare, marriages and family life in ruin. We turn responsibility for faith over to religious experts. Result? A public Christian identity dominated by bumper-sticker labels and television celebrities that nurture in people an insatiable appetite for watching religious performance and an indiscriminate eagerness for buying junk religious artifacts.

Hero: The Name of a Priest!

1. **The Priesthood of All Believers** > David's life is the premier biblical example. When Christian communities are healthy, the "little ones" aren't demeaned and dispirited into being followers and consumers but find themselves acquiring initiative and originality as their priests and pastors, deacons and bishops, friends and neighbors serve them.
2. **A Kingdom of Priests** > David's ancestors, freshly rescued from a doomed life in Egypt, heard this phrase (Exodus 19:6). Out in the desert with a pop-up tent for a temple, forced into a tough-and-ready equality by the austere conditions of wilderness survival, they were not to **have** priests but to **be** priests.
3. **YOU are a Priest** > Jesus freed us from our sins and made us priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Rev. 1:6; 5:10; 20:6). A priest presents a person to God, or presents God to a person. A priest makes the God-connection verbal or visible. God and humans have something to do with one another, everything to do with one another. A priest says and acts that reality.

ACTION: Journal This!

1. Who in your life is an example of a person following their calling? How does that person impact you and others?
2. In Romans 12:6, Paul states, “We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.” What is a gift you have that someone has pointed to you?
3. What is one heroic action step you want to take this week toward your purpose?