



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!

Connection – A Heart for Relationship!

I Samuel 16:7(ESV), I Peter 3:8

*"Connection is why we're here. We are hardwired to connect to others.
It's what gives purpose and meaning to our lives, and without it there is suffering."*

- Brene' Brown

Heroes – Be Like That - Connection!

1. **LOVE** > All of us need someone whose love and acceptance is a lifeline during time of stress. With it, we can endure most any trial. Without it, stress multiplies and we may spiral into despair, compulsive behaviors, and burnout. All of us need someone we can count on. All of us need a Hero.
2. **Safe Space** > How do people feel in your presence? Providing a space for another person to open up can be the hardest, most intentional work we do in our heroic journey. Quote by Henri Nouwen.
3. **HOW** > L-O-V-E offerings:
 1. **Listening** > involves our eyes and hearts as much as our ears. Nonverbal signals often tell more than the words convey. Holding space and silence for another person is incredibly meaningful.
 2. **Openness** > Hold back from interjecting our experience during someone's sharing of their own; others don't need you to solve their issues; come alongside the other.
 3. **Vulnerability** > Many of us hold onto our failures long after God has forgiven us. We operate from a place of fear. Like Adam and Eve, we hide!
 4. **Empathy** > Our first goal in any conversation is for the other person to feel and be understood. This can only be achieved by suspending our preoccupation with ourselves and entering into the experience of the other person. Free of self-concern equals *WITH YOU!*

Henri Nouwen – Former Notre Dame professor and popular author

“My own desire to be useful, to do something significant, or to be part of some impressive project is so strong that soon my time is taken up by meetings, conferences, study groups, and workshops that prevent me from walking the streets ... But I wonder more and more if the first things shouldn't be to know people by name, to eat and drink with them, to listen to their stories and tell your own, and to let them know with words, handshakes, and hugs that you do not simply like them, but truly love them.”

Hero: Connection – Friendship of David & Jonathan

I Samuel 18-20; John 15:13,14

1. **Feeling Unloved** > Sooner or later we find ourselves treated as trespassers or rivals—the enemy. David did. The way David lived can be accounted for only by understanding the ways he experienced and handled criticism. What do you do when you're criticized, teased, avoided, attacked, shot at, abandoned, stoned, cursed, hunted down, snubbed, stabbed in the back, treated like a doormat, and damned with faint praise?
2. **Opposition** > Saul hated David because David was good (I Samuel 18:11). David was doing everything right when Saul tried to kill him. He had killed the Philistine giant, ending the impasse with Israel's enemy, and he had brought healing to Saul's tortured spirit, quieting the turbulence in the troubled king. He was just what the nation needed; was just what the king needed. For doing these good works he nearly got himself killed. We expect to get called on the carpet for doing wrong; we don't expect it for doing right (I Samuel 20:1). See Psalm 7.

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3. **Brotherhood** > Interwoven throughout this murderous plotting of King Saul is the extraordinary friendship between David and Jonathan, Saul's son. Together they tried to understand Saul. They both wanted the best for Saul. And yet, Jonathan helped his friend David (I Samuel 20:23).
4. **Friendship** > A much underestimated aspect of spirituality. It's every bit as significant as prayer and fasting. Jonathan's friendship was essential to David's life. It's highly unlikely that David could have persisted in serving Saul without the friendship of Jonathan. Jonathan, in striking contrast to his father, discerned God in David, comprehended the danger and difficulty of his anointing, and made a covenant of friendship with him. Jonathan's friendship entered David's soul in a way that Saul's hatred never did.

Hero: David and the Power of Connection

1. **Good Wins** > After Saul's sixth attempt on his life, David ran for protection to the prophet Samuel at Ramah, where Samuel presided over a school of prophets. Saul sought to kill David for the seventh time. He arrived at Ramah with murder on his mind, but he and his evil intent were no match for the power of God. He was soon completely under the influence of God's Spirit and giving witness to God's presence.
2. **Evil Loses** > If we are to live large and free in the context of God, we must learn what God has revealed to us. The story of David shows the massive resources of royalty are ranged against the young warrior. And what happens? After each outbreak of violence, King Saul is weaker and more distraught; after each outbreak of violence, David is stronger and still befriended. David, his election, vocation, and imagination confirmed by Jonathan's friendship, refuses the way of violence and embraces the way of love and service. Evil loses. Love wins!

ACTION: Journal This!

1. When have you seen connection and love help you through a challenge?
2. Who have you come alongside to walk with them through a challenge?
3. What is one heroic action step you want to take this week toward strengthening a relationship?



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Highland Colony Men's Roundtable
www.MensTable.com

Connection – A Heart for Relationship!

October 04, 2018

A Man understands the power of connection and the need for loving relationship.

Bible Verses: I Samuel 16:7 (ESV); I Peter 3:8; John 15:13,14; Psalm 7

Video: Purging Passivity

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jUv076IT5bk>

Music: My Old Friend - Tim McGraw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T97QbZJfL9Y>

Resources: (1) *Heroes Wanted – Why the World Needs You to Live Your Heart Out* - Rodney D. Bullard; (2) *Reflections on the Life of David - Leap Over a Wall—Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians* – by Eugene Peterson (3) *The Sacred Romance – Closer to the Heart of God* by John Eldredge

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Bible Verses – The Message

I Samuel 16:7 (ESV) - ⁷ But God told Samuel, "Looks aren't everything. Don't be impressed with his looks and stature. I've already eliminated him. God judges persons differently than humans do. Men and women look at the face; God looks into the heart."

I Peter 3:8 – ⁸ Summing up: Be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble

John 15:13,14 - ¹³ This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends.

¹⁴ You are my friends when you do the things I command you.

Psalm 7 - ¹ God! God! I am running to you for dear life; the chase is wild. ² If they catch me, I'm finished: ripped to shreds by foes fierce as lions, dragged into the forest and left unlooked for, unremembered. ³ God, if I've done what they say - ⁴ betrayed my friends, ripped off my enemies - If my hands are really that dirty, ⁵ let them get me, walk all over me, leave me flat on my face in the dirt. ⁶ Stand up, God; pit your holy fury against my furious enemies.

⁷ My accusers have packed the courtroom; it's judgment time. ⁸ Take your place on the bench, reach for your gavel, throw out the false charges against me. I'm ready, confident in your verdict: "Innocent." ⁹ Close the book on Evil, God, but publish your mandate for us. You get us ready for life: you probe for our soft spots, you knock off our rough edges. ¹⁰ And I'm feeling so fit, so safe: made right, kept right. ¹¹ God in solemn honor does things right, but his nerves are sandpapered raw. Nobody gets by with anything. ¹² God is already in action - Sword honed on his whetstone, bow strung, arrow on the string, ¹³ Lethal weapons in hand, each arrow a flaming missile. ¹⁴ Look at that guy! He had sex with sin, he's pregnant with evil. Oh, look! He's having the baby - a Lie-Baby! ¹⁵ See that man shoveling day after day, digging, then concealing, his man-trap down that lonely stretch of road? Go back and look again - you'll see him in it headfirst, legs waving in the breeze. ¹⁶ That's what happens: mischief backfires; violence boomerangs. ¹⁷ I'm thanking God, who makes things right. I'm singing the fame of heaven-high God.

"My Old Friend"

Tim McGraw

My old friend, I recall
The times we had hanging on my wall
I wouldn't trade them for gold
Cause they laugh and they cry me
Somehow sanctify me
They're woven in the stories I have told
And tell again

My old friend, I apologize
For the years that have passed
Since the last time you and I
Dusted off those memories
But the running and the races
The people and the places
There's always somewhere else I had to be
Time gets slim, my old friend

Don't know why, don't know why
Don't know why, don't know why

My old friend, this song's for you
Cause a few simple verses
Was the least that I could do
To tell the world that you were here
Cause the love and the laughter
Will live on long after
All of the sadness and the tears
We'll meet again, my old friend

Goodbye, goodbye
Goodbye, goodbye

My old friend, my old friend
Goodbye, goodbye

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