

unsung HEROES

Part # 5:

Finding An Unsung Hero

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An unsung hero defined is, “a person who makes a substantive yet **unrecognized** or unacknowledged contribution to a cause.”

God provides us with unsung heroes to inspire us to allow Him the **opportunity** to do seemingly impossible things **through** our lives.

Central Point . . .

Heroes Among Us

Whether recognized or not, the heroes among us have demonstrated an ability to do incredible things. It is easy to convince ourselves that such ability is enjoyed by a **limited** few.

The truth is however that God has placed heroic potential in **all** of us...

We can discover our heroic potential when we:

1. change our thinking about **God**.

Ephesians 3:20 *God can do anything, you know—far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.*

2. change our thinking about **ourselves**.

1 Corinthians 1:30 *Because of God you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God. In Christ we are put right with God, and have been made holy, and have been set free from sin.*

3. change our thinking about **others**.

John 15:12-14 *This is my command: Love one another the way I loved you. This is the very best way to love. Put your life on the line for your friends.*

Our ability to achieve heroic deeds isn't based on **fate** or **circumstances**.

Instead it is the byproduct or **realizing** our God-ordained life's **purpose**.

Focal Point . . .

Purposeful Hero

There are three guiding truths that can help us know we are living a life of purpose:

Guiding Truth #1: Engage Life - Make the most of each **moment**.

Don't be so consumed with **projects** that you miss **people**.

Ecclesiastes 8:6 *“Yes, there's a right time and way for everything, even though, unfortunately, we miss it for the most part.”*

Too often, we put off spending meaningful time with friends and family while we **wait** for better situations or more **convenient** circumstances.

1 Corinthians 7:17 *“And don't be wishing you were someplace else or with someone else. Where you are right now is God's place for you. Live and obey and love and believe right there.”*

What matters are our **relationships**.

Luke 10:38-42 *“As they continued their travel, Jesus entered a village. A woman by the name of Martha welcomed him and made him feel quite at home. 39 She had a sister, Mary, who sat before the Master, hanging on every word he said. 40 But Martha was pulled away by all she had to do in the kitchen. Later, she stepped in, interrupting them. “Master, don't you care that my sister has abandoned the kitchen to me? Tell her to lend me a hand.” 41 The Master said, “Martha, dear Martha, you're fussing far too much and getting yourself worked up over nothing. 42 One thing only is essential, and Mary has chosen it—it's the main course, and won't be taken from her.”*

Guiding Truth #2: Enjoy Life - Appreciate the **journey**.

Don't be so consumed with the **destination** that you miss the **trip**.

1 Peter 1:13-17 *“So roll up your sleeves, put your mind in gear, be totally ready to receive the gift that's coming when Jesus arrives. 14 Don't lazily slip back into those old grooves of evil, doing just what you feel like doing. You didn't know any better then; you do now. 15 As obedient children, let yourselves be pulled into a way of life shaped by God's life, a life energetic and blazing with holiness. 16 God said, “I am holy; you be holy.” 17 You call out to God for help and he helps—he's a good Father that way. But don't forget, he's also a responsible Father, and won't let you get by with sloppy living. Your life is a journey you must travel with a deep consciousness of God.”*

It's on the journey that we learn and grow – it's where the significant **transformations** in our character take place.

Galatians 5:22-25 “But what happens when we live God's way? He brings gifts into our lives, much the same way that fruit appears in an orchard – things like affection for others, exuberance about life, serenity. We develop a willingness to stick with things, a sense of compassion in the heart, and a conviction that a basic holiness permeates things and people. We find ourselves involved in loyal commitments, 23 not needing to force our way in life, able to marshal and direct our energies wisely. 24 Among those who belong to Christ, everything connected with getting our own way and mindlessly responding to what everyone else calls necessities is killed off for good—crucified. 25 Since this is the kind of life we have chosen, the life of the Spirit, let us make sure that we do not just hold it as an idea in our heads or a sentiment in our hearts, but work out its implications in every detail of our lives.”

What matters are our **attitudes**.

Philippians 4:10-13 “I'm glad in God, far happier than you would ever guess— 11 Actually, I don't have a sense of needing anything personally. I've learned by now to be quite content whatever my circumstances. 12 I'm just as happy with little as with much, with much as with little. I've found the recipe for being happy whether full or hungry, hands full or hands empty. 13 Whatever I have, wherever I am, I can make it through anything in the One who makes me who I am.”

Guiding Truth #3: **Enrich** life - Make the **difference**.

Don't be so consumed with **yourself** that you miss the significance of **impacting** the lives of others.

1 Corinthians 10:24 “We want to live well, but our foremost efforts should be to help others live well.”

It's in our **willingness** to offer ourselves in the **service** of others that we truly become the person God created us to be and begin living the life we were born to live.

Galatians 5:13-16 “It is absolutely clear that God has called you to a free life. Just make sure that you don't use this freedom as an excuse to do whatever you want to do and destroy your freedom. Rather, use your freedom to serve one another in love; that's how freedom grows. 14 For everything we know about God's Word is summed up in a single sentence: Love others as you love yourself. That's an act of true freedom...16 My counsel is this: Live freely, animated and motivated by God's Spirit. Then you won't feed the compulsions of selfishness.”

What matters are our **contributions**.

Luke 6:38 “Give away your life; you'll find life given back, but not merely given back—given back with bonus and blessing.”

Turning Point...

We are **uniquely** created individuals, **equipped** to achieve incredible things.

Unfortunately, our **true** potential remains **untapped** without the constant **presence** of God in our lives.

We are able to live heroically through a growing **personal** relationship with God.

Our challenge:

Seekers – If you are one checking out the claims of Christianity, know that the future God desires for you to experience is one that includes a growing personal relationship with Him. The good news is that to receive it, you simply have to ask Him.

To invite Christ into your heart, you can simply pray,

“Heavenly Father I **admit** that I have left you out of my life, but this morning, I **believe** that Christ is your Son and that He died for my sin of rejecting you and that you raised Him from the dead. I **confess** Him to be my Lord and Savior. In Jesus' Name, Amen

Believers – simply ask God,

“Heavenly Father –Am I allowing you to work in me and through me to be the unsung hero you created me to be?”