

HERO-MAKER WEEK 1: THINKING LIKE A HERO-MAKER

(Preacher – Dave Ferguson, Community Christian Church, Chicago – 16th February 2020)

Introduction

Community Christian Church in Chicago have produced an excellent preaching resource called 'Hero-Maker'. They have kindly allowed us to make audio copies of the sermons, so please get in contact with us at Transform Widnes if you would like a copy. There is also book 'Hero-Maker' that accompanies the series and goes into greater depth with the themes. This can be purchased https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hero-Maker-ITPE-Exponential-Ferguson/dp/0310588936/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=hero-maker&qid=1595422883&sr=8-1 if you or someone on your behalf would like to buy this.

Summary of Teaching Video – Week 1

So many of us love superheroes – people with extraordinary gifts, talents, abilities that put these abilities to use for the good of the world. Superheroes have taken the film, tv and game industry by storm ever since Superman graced the comic book scene in the 1930s. What is interesting, of course, is that almost none of these heroes started out that way. Every one of them had an origin story and specifically a person or people who helped them along the way. The writer Joseph Campbell communicates about the 'Hero's Journey', a classic literary device which sees the main protagonist of a story meeting a mentor along the way who will encourage them, challenge them, teach them in some way that will assist the hero in completing the quest set before them. For every hero there is a 'Hero-Maker'. Dave Ferguson says that 'It's a good thing to be a hero,' to make an impact and a difference in the world. To use the gifts and abilities God has given us. He goes on to say however that 'greatness is found in being a hero-maker.' The hero can't make it without people who will invest and pour their lives into her or him.

Jesus the Ultimate Hero-Maker

Jesus was the ultimate hero-maker. His whole life was one in which he gave up the comfort of heaven and glory, to come to earth and pour himself into others for their good and for the good of the world:

¹⁶Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.' (*Matthew 28:16-20, N.I.V*)

Hero Makers Dream Bigger than Themselves

What was a very daunting task (disciples of every nation!) was side by side with Jesus' promise to always be with his followers. Jesus had a dream that, says Ferguson, was not just about 'his own personal comfort', but was a dream that all the peoples of the earth would be led into relationship with God. It wasn't a dream that Jesus wanted to accomplish single-handedly but to empower us to take part in. If this seems daunting to us that is good! Our dreams can't be just limited to ourselves. Ferguson argues that, 'If you don't have a dream that's bigger than yourself (meaning you being the hero of the story), you need to get a bigger dream. You need to ask Jesus for a bigger dream.'

Hero Makers take the Initiative. (With others)

Mark 1v16-18 – Tells us that Jesus took initiative with others, he called people to come and follow him and for them to be part of something bigger than themselves and to train them to go and take initiative with others. Hero-makers very often spot potential in people before they spot it in themselves.

Hero Makers Pour into Regular People.

Mark 3:13-15 – Jesus identifies 12 people to pour into to equip to carry out his mission for the nations. He stays in close proximity with them, doing life with them teaching them through word, deed and example. What is amazing is that despite their many problems, Jesus stayed with these men and women, they eventually poured their (Jesus-empowered) lives into others who did the same which has resulted in 2000 years later, there being over 2 Billion people who call themselves Jesus-followers! Jesus is handing on the baton to us. It's our turn. How do we help others to be who God has called them to be everything he's caused them to be in the work-place, at school, college, neighbourhoods, families, friendships, relationships, social groups and clubs and church etc?

Weekly Practice Number 1– Point to your head

- It's time to think like a Hero Maker.
- How can I make others the hero of the story? How can I continue to encourage, bless and assist others to be all God has called them to be?