

HERO-MAKER WEEK 2: SEEING LIKE A HERO-MAKER

(Preacher – Ian Simkins, Community Christian Church, Chicago – 23rd 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 at https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hero-Maker-ITPE-ExponentialFerguson/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 2

Do you like optical illusions? If you've seen any you'll know that what you see is dependent on your perspective – maybe where you stand, what angle you face, which part of the image to focus on etc. One of the big shifts of this series is about seeing yourself and others differently: A shift from you being the hero of your story, to being a hero-maker of other people's stories. Last week was about 'thinking like a hero-maker' and today is about 'seeing like a hero-maker', to see the way in which God intended us to live as his apprentices who make other apprentices within the world. Turning the spotlight off ourselves and on to others.

Greater things than Jesus?

When on earth, Jesus invited his first apprentices, as he does us, to do things greater than we could accomplish on our own:

'Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these.' (John 14:12)

What a daunting thing to imagine that we would do greater things than Jesus would do! We can easily find this hard to believe, especially because we live in a world that celebrates and idolises elite experts and celebrities. These are the people who have made the cut either in looks, strength, intelligence, wealth, popularity etc. May you have been passed above for a job, relationship, experience and it was given someone else. Maybe you feel like you didn't make the cut.

Jesus calls the unqualified

¹⁸ As Jesus was walking beside the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon called Peter and his brother Andrew. They were casting a net into the lake, for they were fishermen. ¹⁹ 'Come, follow me,' Jesus said, 'and I will send you out to fish for people.' ²⁰ At once they left their nets and followed him. (Matthew 4:18-20, NIVUK).

Jesus walked past very unglamorous, working-class guys: fisherman. These might not have made the cut intellectually, financially or otherwise, but Jesus saw something in them and he invited them to 'come, follow me.' He saw the potential they could have to change the world, to carry out and carry on his assignment to go after other broken people, those lost in the fog of life and away from God and to call them back to God. To see towns, cities, the whole world renewed and restored by God.

Hero-makers see in others what they don't see in themselves

Jesus' invitation to those first apprentices is the same invitation to you. You might not think you are worth much or have accomplished much but Jesus sees something in you. As Ian says in the teaching, 'The Creator of the world says to you, "come follow me", even if we don't feel qualified.' All Jesus needs is a 'yes' from us. His 'yes' from those first apprentices started a world-wide revolution! We can be part of that revolution to change the world! A hero-maker looks deeper than the surface of the life of someone else and sees treasure within them. A lot of us have had people in our lives who have seen the treasure within us, they saw something we couldn't see and they spoke it over us, encouraging and empowering us.

ICNU – the most important letters in the Alphabet

We get stuck with seeing the mess in our lives and the lives of others. What about if we realised that our limitations can be factored into the work that God has for us and IMPORTANTLY – factored into the work that God has for others? Jesus says to us *ICNU* (I see in you) so much more! What if we encouraged others we know by speaking encouragement into them the same way?

Weekly Practice Number 2–

- It's time to see like a hero-maker.
- Who has God placed in your mind that you need to have an ICNU (I See In You) conversation? Who are they? Have a think, pray, write their name down and then be really brave and give them a phone call, drop around their house, or write a card to them. You never know what you might unleash within them for God's Kingdom!