

Calling for Heroes

(By Paul R. Blake)

Introduction:

- A. Hero: any person admired for courage, nobility, or exploits; any person admired for qualities or achievements and regarded as an ideal or model. (Webster's New World College Dictionary 4th ed. 1999).
 - 1. Characters who, in the face of danger and adversity or from a position of weakness, display courage and the will for self-sacrifice, that is, heroism, for some greater good of all humanity. Origins: "ἥρωας" (heros), hero, warrior, literally protector or defender; one who preserves whole.
 - 2. Hero is often simply an ordinary person in extraordinary circumstances, who, despite odds being stacked against him or her, prevails in the end. (Wikipedia)
 - 3. In a survey, college students were asked to define a hero. They responded in two ways: subjective and objective.
 - a. Subjective view: "A hero is anyone that I personally look up to as a role model."
 - b. Objective view: "A hero must be someone who has acted courageously, perhaps in the face of great personal suffering, sacrifice, or risk."
- B. Bible heroes and the characteristics that made them so.

I. CALEB - Joshua 14:6-13 - PERSEVERANCE

- A. Caleb claimed the promise - vs. 9
- B. Age was no hindrance - vs. 10
- C. His key - vs. 14 - "He wholly followed the Lord"

II. JONATHAN - 1Samuel 14:6-7 - WISDOM

- A. He used wise tactics to infiltrate the enemy against overwhelming odds
- B. He faced the Philistines with confidence in the Lord
- C. Jonathan combined what he knew of God's power and His own abilities
- D. Paul - 2Tim. 4:16-18

III. DAVID - 1Samuel 17:32-37 - FAITH

- A. No enemy was bigger than God
- B. Right perspective on the situation - vss. 44-47

IV. NEHEMIAH - Nehemiah 6:1-13 - WORKS

- A. He would not be diverted
- B. He refused to live in fear
- C. His eye was fixed on the goal - Zech. 4:6-7

V. DANIEL - Daniel 6:6-11 - PRAYER

- A. Nothing would deter Daniel from Prayer
- B. God's law was higher than man's decrees
- C. Daniel's prayer life bore fruit - vss. 25-26

VI. ELISHA - 2Kings 6:8-17 - KNOWLEDGE

A. What one sees when he looks by faith coming from knowing the word of God

B. Jesus - John 19:10-11

1. Pilate represented Rome in all its power
2. Jesus looked beyond apparent power to who was really in charge
3. Matt. 26:53

Conclusion:

A. A hero is not someone we look up to; a hero is someone who has lived in such a way as to have earned our admiration and imitation