

**Russell Kelfer**

# **God's Truth About Heroes**

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**Series: The Beatitudes**

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# God's Truth About Heroes

This is a continuation of our many lessons in the series concerning God's truth and Satan's lies. We started this series on the Beatitudes and took a side trip. I think we can add a new Beatitude, "Blessed is the class for they endure."

Every generation has its heroes. These are men and women who rise to the top in times of crisis, displaying seemingly supernatural strength and sometimes seemingly supernatural courage or supernatural wisdom. Men and women point to these people in amazement and proclaim to their children, "That person is a hero." George Washington was a hero. Naturally, Abraham Lincoln was a hero. The first astronauts to land on the moon were heroes. It is no small wonder that who our children's heroes are is important, because to some measure they will strive to become like their heroes. In this lesson we will look at Satan's lie and God's truth about the heroes of our generation.

Who are this generation's heroes? Let me explain three things:

1- Each generation has a hero pattern which shows the qualities that they worship.

2- Each generation has a list of make-believe heroes. These are comic strip caricatures of the real dreams they would like to become.

3- Each generation has real people who are their idols. These people can be dead or alive. They are men or women who portray what that generation considers to be heroic.

This generation is no exception. I believe that if you watch television, read the newspaper, or talk to young people, you will see what I mean.

I want to remind you that even from the world's perspective, it is no sin to have heroes. I want to read an excerpt from an article that appeared recently in a Newsweek Magazine. It is entitled, "Where Have All The Heroes Gone?" The author was in San Antonio, of all places, and he wrote this:

*Near the sign by the door of the Alamo, there are several simple warnings: No Smoking, Quiet, Gentlemen Remove Hats. I did not see anyone light up inside the Alamo. There were few noises except for the subdued and reverent words of the tour*

## God's Truth About Heroes

*guides. The gentlemen were all bareheaded. Somehow, these minor gestures of respect seemed important. Standing in a dusty courtyard in the dry, Texas heat in a season where Americans were knifing one another over tanks of gasoline, I felt refreshed in a place where the memory of heroism and trailblazing can still make a man take off his hat.*

*I have been reading quite a bit lately about how America has grown too rich, too confused, and too sophisticated for heroes. John Wayne is gone. His larger than life adventures have been replaced mainly by movies that offer only blinding special effects or characters trying to find themselves.*

*Once we routinely asked our children, "Who is your hero?" Today, we fumble for answers when they ask us if there are any. Vietnam and Watergate played their part in all of this as we learned to beware of our leaders and to scrutinize them warts and all. The media has done so with a vengeance. Few leaders can stand up to the barrage. A cynical age now accepts the tarnished coin of celebrity in place of heroic virtue. Thus, the bestseller lists are filled with books by Watergate felons and their co-conspirators.*

*Even in a troubled land of cookie cutter shopping malls and thought-deadening discos, I suspect that there are a few people who still seek out the lonely roads, take the personal risks, and dare to shape their worlds. While modern scholars may prattle about human potential, few actually fulfill it and call it destiny.*

*The Alamo overcomes. In its resistance to the vast scale of Texas, it asserts a stubborn grandeur of its own.*

He goes on to talk about the experiences he had going through the Alamo and becoming acquainted with the experiences of the heroes that died there. He ends by talking about James Bonham. He writes,

*James Butler Bonham was a courier who left the Alamo during the siege and rode to Goliad 95 miles away to plead for reinforcements. He is lesser known than Crocket or Bowie, but his horse it seems to me should gallop through our modern consciousness the way the "hero-devil" Thomas Soupman's echoing hoof beats gave resonance to Faulkner's south in Absalom, Absalom.*

*The commander at Goliad could offer no troops. At that*

## God's Truth About Heroes

*moment, Bonham knew that the Alamo was doomed, but he turned around, fought his way back through the Mexican army and rejoined his comrades to fight to certain death.*

*No one faced the odds more squarely than Bonham. No one had more options. He was already a hero. He could have joined the other forces, fought to glory, grabbed a few more days or years for a life that ended at 29. In the modern idiom that replaces self-respect with self-serving, he could have copped out.*

*It is difficult even to speculate on the depths of Bonham's dedication. Perhaps modern analysts would speak of obsession, self-destructive tendencies, even, God save us from analysts, male-bonding among heroes. But the hoof beats of Bonham's ride express it much better. They leave us with the lingering and essential challenge, who among modern heroes would have made the return trip?*

*It took a 12 year old to still the hoof beat echoes for me. I brought home an Alamo T-shirt for my daughter who attends a very fashionable and expensive Manhattan school. I presented it amid enthusiastic tales of what I had seen in Texas. She accepted the gift with a polite, bemused smile, then admitted that she had never heard of the Alamo.*

*Her history in Social Studies classes had learned about ancient Greece and the institutions of democracy. They had studied slavery and the roots of black conscientiousness. They knew of other relevant "stuff". It would be a cheap gesture to criticize such curriculum. There is some undeniable wisdom in the decision of scholars to tackle hard, complex social issues and leave Davy Crockett to Walt Disney. But I would feel better about the ongoing prospects for heroism if our school children were allowed a few moments to listen for the hoof beats.*

It isn't wrong to have heroes, even from the world's perspectives. But it is wrong to have the wrong heroes. First of all, what is the hero pattern of this generation? Let me give you three things:

1- This generation is cynical. As the article explains, we have so pulled back the curtain of men's lives through the media that no one stands untarnished. Our children have become cynical and questioning, majoring on the rottenness of heroes past.

2- This generation is accomplishment oriented. With no

## God's Truth About Heroes

confidence that character remains or is essential, our generation looks to aggressive success stories rather than qualities that set men apart as different.

3- This generation is seeking to overthrow traditional values by and large. A man or woman's heroism may be largely the result of his or her rebellion to the standards and ethics that in years past set men apart. How do we worship and who do we worship in the age in which we live? I will give you three examples:

1) Men worship the macho man. He glides in a glider. He rides the rapids. He faces certain death. He drinks with the crowd. He boasts of his conquests. He is tough, and he knows it. He manifests no form of gentleness. He holds virtue not as something to be sought but to be scorned. He is rugged. But, by God's standards, he is not really a man at all.

2) On the other hand, we worship a composite woman. She is a strange combination. She is glamorous, but liberated. Her glamour appeals to the men. Her liberated condition appeals to the women. On commercials you may see a young lady who wears a certain perfume. During the daytime, that perfume gives her an aura because she is an executive by day. At night, she is a temptress. The same perfume accomplishes the same purpose. She handles men like a man in the marketplace. She handles men like a woman by the fireplace. She is not even a shell of God's kind of woman. Her beauty is external, her role is aggressive, and she longs to be a woman who is at least as tough as a man.

3) Unfortunately for the most part, we worship children who are smart alecks. You can see this on the television programs that succeed. The children talk back and are smarter than their parents. The parents are always just a little bit slow. The children seek to educate their parents away from the traditional values that seem, at least on television, so old-fashioned.

If that is the pattern, then who are our make-believe heroes? The make-believe hero for women seems to be the new "Wonder Woman" and the "Bionic Woman". They are beautiful, but supernatural. They are often surrounded by inept males who would be crushed in defeat did not our heroines display super masculine qualities in super feminine bodies.

The men now look to the "Incredible Hulk", the "Six Million Dollar Man" and "Superman". These men are the products of either science or chance. These heroes have split personalities. They exist

## God's Truth About Heroes

in a natural world until crisis comes. Then, from within themselves come supernatural powers. These powers enable them to overcome. They are our heroes. What do they have in common? They have three things in common:

- They all have supernatural strength that does not come from God.
- They have either in their heroic or non-heroic form, natural beauty or handsome features.
- They are on the side of goodness, but the end always justifies the means.

These are our make-believe heroes.

Who are our real heroes? There are always "Charlie's Angels" who fit the pattern once again of being tough but beautiful, who in real life are not anyone's angels at all. Then there is the number one box office attraction, Barbara Streisand, who has talent but no morals. She is liberated and has a beautiful voice, but is in bondage to the new morality. Then there is Elvis Presley who is America's dead hero but we won't let him die. He lived like a king, but he died a drug addict. He was in bondage to his success. Now, cheap imitations squeeze themselves into sequined tights and wiggle and moan in high school auditoriums and our children faint just like some of us used to do when Frank Sinatra used to sing.

Then there is Jane Fonda, a rebel with a cause. She is attractive on screen but determined in her heart to destroy what this nation has been built upon. But to many she is a heroine of this age. Then there is Marilyn Monroe. She is our dead heroine. She was wracked by insecurity, immorality, guilt and frustration. She died of suicide, the only way out of her success. The public has been resurrecting her ever since.

This generation wants to elevate those who succeed at any price. Morals and traditional qualities are not a factor. Our heroes have these things in common. They have money. They defy sexual standards. But, they entertain us. That, in itself, justifies their exalted position.

If that is Satan's line-up of heroes, just what is it that Satan is after? I would like to give you some possible suggestions:

1- He wants to prove that there is something supernatural apart from God. This is why he takes us into the realm of super heroes. It is a lie that man can do supernatural things without a

supernatural God.

2- He wants to glorify that which is physical: beauty, brains, strength and talent as opposed to character.

3- He wants to elevate men and women into the public eye as heroes then reveal their absence of moral values. In so doing, our children, who worship the hero, re-evaluate their own standards.

4- He wants to use entertainment and entertainers to create a world of make-believe into which we will subtly accept new standards of conduct as that which is normal. In a previous lesson, I read a statement from one of the network officials that basically said if we were ever going to change the standards of behavior of this nation, we would do it through situation comedies. While America is laughing, it is accepting what it sees. The television program "All in the Family" made such great in-roads several years ago. Now it is such a mild program. Then, it simply was a door-breaker that opened the door to other television programs that were in the process of breaking down traditional values while we were laughing at what was going on. They would subtly work into our sub-conscious thinking a new standard of norms. The television program, "Three's Company", "Soap", "Dallas" and "Saturday Night Live" were all results of this changing standard.

Satan wants to convince us through a smoke screen that a president's personal or moral life has no bearing on his ability to rule a country. Satan wants us to believe that the immorality of those who entertain us does not affect the moral conscience of our children. Satan wants us to believe that athletes who endorse alcohol do not make it more acceptable to youth. These are lies. He wants to convince us that movie stars can swap wives and promote immorality, but they are basically "good people" whose positions of prominence do not require a higher level of conduct. It is a lie. He wants to convince us that "Wonder Woman", "Charlie's Angels" and the "Bionic Woman" do not affect a girl's concepts of womanhood. This is a lie. The heroes of our day shape the moral consciousness and reflect the dreams and aspirations of young people. This is the truth about the world's heroes.

What is the truth about God's heroes? First of all, the Bible is a book of heroes. These are men and women, who in times of crises, use God's strength and rise to the occasion and conquer evil. From God's perspective there still is such a thing as good and evil. David was a hero. Armed with nothing but a slingshot and confidence in

## God's Truth About Heroes

the provision of his God, he tackled a giant who had paralyzed a nation. He had courage. His courage made David a hero.

Moses was a hero. With all of the odds against him, he stood before Pharaoh and cried, "Let my people go." Through the sea and through the wilderness against all of the odds, he remained the leader of God but the meekest of men. Moses' meekness made Moses a hero.

Joseph was a hero. He was rejected by his brothers and sold into slavery, and unjustly accused. He was imprisoned and forgotten. Joseph remained faithful. His faithfulness made him a hero.

Ruth was a hero. She had the opportunity to turn back and start a new life. She had every right to do so. But, Ruth was loyal. "Wither thou goest, I will go" is now a watchword of loyalty. Ruth's loyalty made her a hero.

Stephen was a hero. In the face of certain death, he saw a vision of God, and he sought forgiveness for those who took his life. Stephen had compassion. His compassion made him a hero.

Joshua was a hero. He saw life from a different perspective. He, Caleb and ten others were sent in to survey the land. Ten of the men saw defeat but Joshua and Caleb saw God. Joshua was allowed to lead his people into the land. He believed God. He had faith. His faith made him a hero.

Daniel was a hero. All he had to do to save his life was to worship no one but the king for thirty days. The whole kingdom obeyed, but Daniel turned to Jerusalem and prayed to the eternal God and became potential lunchmeat for the lions. But God stepped in and shut the mouth of those lions. God became exalted, because in the face of danger, Daniel became bold. His boldness made him a hero.

Abraham was a hero. Paul was a hero. Jesus was the greatest hero of all. Courage, meekness, faithfulness, loyalty, compassion, faith and boldness are all qualities of God manifested in the lives of men and women when they believe in Him. This is what makes real heroes.

Have you ever wondered what makes a man a superman to God? Have you ever wondered what makes a woman a superwoman to God? I took some time this week and took these stories we have just been going through. I came up with five common denominators. There are more and I realize these are over-simplified. These five points were woven through the lives of all of God's heroes.



## God's Truth About Heroes

1- A hero is someone who is single-mindedly God's man or woman. This person is so devoted to God in the quiet place. They are so faithful to God in the marketplace. In the heat of the testing place, it never enters their minds that there are less noble alternatives. Do your children know that? Do they understand that heroes are made in the prayer closet, alone with God? That is where the character comes from that reveals itself under pressure.

2- Heroes are those whose strength is in God. Do our children understand that what made Paul strong was his weakness? Do they understand that what made David strong was his weakness? Do they understand that what made Moses strong was his weakness? These were not the men who "could", they were the men who "couldn't". But, they knew a God who could and that is what made them God's men, heroes.

3- A hero is someone who gives all the glory to God and keeps none of it for himself. It was Daniel who said, "I can't interpret those things oh mighty king, but my God can." It was David who said, "I can't slay a giant, but I know a God who can." It was Abraham who said, "But God will provide Himself the lamb." John the Baptist, Paul, Peter, Moses, Abraham and Joseph never forgot they were not heroes once they became one. God could still use them until the end of their lives.

4- A hero is someone who stands the test of time. All of these men made mistakes. All of these men failed at some point. The Scripture records those failures, but the years surfaced the qualities of their lives. This made them worthy to be called heroes. Heroes stand the test of time.

5- A hero is someone whose character is more important than his accomplishments. This is basically the theme of the rest of this lesson. Above all else, what separates man's heroes from God's is not what a man accomplishes, but the quality of life that is exemplified in the accomplishment of it.

Who are your children's heroes? Have you ever stopped to ask them? Who do they think your heroes are? Some of the heroes for some of us wear helmets and carry footballs. Have you ever stopped to wonder who your children think your real heroes are? If your children are small or if you have grandchildren or if you are a teacher for young children, you can, to a large measure, determine who their heroes will be and what will be the measure of a man to which they will strive.

## God's Truth About Heroes

Do your children consider missionaries to be heroes? How many times do you sit down with them to share the cost people are paying on the mission field to share the gospel of Jesus Christ? How many of your children pray for specific missionaries every day? How many of them have read the stories of great missionaries and realize the value of going forth to the ends of the earth to preach the gospel? Many missionaries are the heroes of our day, and they will never be on television.

How many of our children realize that prayer warriors are the heroes in God's kingdom? These are the quiet men and women, who in the solitude of their own prayer chambers, spend hour upon hour simply pleading to God on behalf of His kingdom. They continue pleading for the lost, pleading for the Christians in need of growth and pleading for the affairs of the world. Prayer warriors have the hardest job in the world. They also have the least overt rewards in the world but perhaps the most in heaven. Do your children have any desire to become that? Do they realize these men and women will never be on the big silver screen until they get to heaven? We have some in this church that you don't know about and may never know about but they are the backbone of this church. Anybody can get up here and teach. Anybody can do the outwards things that many people do overtly. It is the power of God working through the people that are doing those activities that come as the result of the faithful few who pray and pray and pray. These are the heroes of our day. Our children need to know that.

There are those who are faithful in the details of the kingdom. There are those who show up week after week to work on this building with no thanks. There are those who do the little things day after day after day with little thanks. There are those who work in the sound booth, who work in the office and do the many unknown tasks that it takes to run a church. These people are simply available to others and willing to serve them. These people are heroes from God's perspective. There are those who have a vision. There are those who have compassion. There are those who are handling tribulation well. Do you sit down with your children and share with them the stories of the people in your fellowship who have just undergone grief or a great sea of tribulation and are handling it so well through the Holy Spirit and giving glory to God? Have you told your children that these are the heroes of our day? Our children must come to understand that the key to becoming a hero is character. It is not optional, it is a necessity.

### What is Character?

A person's character is a composite of the qualities that make up the essence of a man's being which, when expressed, reveal the degree to which God controls his life. All of you are familiar with what character qualities are. As we finish this lesson and talk about how to implement character into our lives and the lives of our children, I want to be clear that we understand what a character quality is. These are just a few:

- 1- Availability- a state of readiness to do the will of God.
- 2- Confidence- positive identification with God's promises.
- 3- Correctability- openness to review
- 4- Discernment- the God-given ability to clearly see issues and motives
- 5- Faith- walking with confidence where you cannot see
- 6- Faithfulness- consistency in the expression of your faith
- 7- Gentleness- the act of always responding in love
- 8- Humility- accepting last place as deserved
- 9- Modesty- discretion that never calls attention to itself
- 10- Power- might that comes as a result of having developed inner strength

At one time, I made a list of fifty-five character qualities with their definitions. You and I need to learn them all. As adults, we need to memorize the definitions. We need to crystallize Scriptural examples. I will show you why as we progress because these are the keys to man's success. It is a way to appropriate godly character. Our children, our disciples, and we ourselves need to restructure our thinking so that we think "character", as we pray, as we teach, as we disciple and as we discipline. Behavior is not our goal, it is a by-product. Character is our goal that displays attitudes which reflect the personality of God.

For the rest of this lesson, I want to look at some practical ways to study character and thus encourage godly heroes to develop. There are seven things you can do to use character qualities to build a consciousness of character in the lives of your family.

- 1- How to approach the parables to learn character.
- 2- How to approach Proverbs to learn character.
- 3- How to study character qualities as a family or as a growth

## God's Truth About Heroes

group.

4- How to study the lives of godly men.

5- How to view Christian success stories.

6- How to find character qualities in daily experiences.

7- How to do a composite of God's Wonder Woman and God's Superman.

### 1- How to Approach the Parables

The parables are sketches of physical truths which to the spiritual mind teach spiritual reality, but they teach much more than principles. Each parable manifests the need for a particular character trait. It reveals the cause and effect of either having or not having that character quality. We can look at Luke 12 to learn about stewardship. Matthew 13 can be referred to if we want to learn about right priorities. Matthew 25 teaches us how to have patience. Read the parable in Matthew 18 to learn about mercy. The parable in John 10 teaches about sacrifice. Refer to Luke 14 to learn about humility. The parable in Luke 18 teaches us about fairness. The parable in Matthew 13 shows us how to have discernment.

The key is that we need to look for character qualities in the parables so that when we or our children come up against issues where character qualities have been violated or where they are needed, all we need to do is to go to the Word and study these parables. We can ask the Spirit to awaken the real meat of the issue which is character as the parable is studied.

### 2- How to Approach Proverbs

It is good to read Proverbs using character qualities as the central issue. It would be helpful to get a set of 3x5 cards or a little notebook and alphabetically arrange all of the character qualities that interest you. Read a chapter a day and have an eye to draw out statements, conclusions, warnings and promises relating to that character quality. At the end of the 31 days, you will have a notebook or a file system on the qualities of character as related from the book of Proverbs. When you have completed this study, you can write your own definition of that quality based upon what you have learned from Proverbs. It is a beautiful way to study the character qualities.

3- How to Study Character Qualities with Family or Growth Group

Bill Gothard has some information on this in his study program. However, you can do this on your own. Select a quality such as courage. Spend 1 to 6 weeks on each quality. I would suggest at least 2 weeks should be spent on each quality. Each day have a different aspect of that character quality to work through. If you are going to study courage, on the first day you need to define it. In the days following, look the word up in a concordance. The next step is to cross-reference it. Then list all of the synonyms that have to do with courage. Find the antonyms that express the opposite of courage. Then find Scriptural examples of courage. There are lot of these examples. After this is done, find Scriptural examples of the absence of courage. Then, you can find insights and cause and effects that are the results of either having or not having courage. The next step is to ask the family or growth group to seek out needs in their own life in this particular area. Pray for each other after this is done. You can also make a notebook with one section on each quality. You design projects for your children that will help them understand what courage really is.

If your children are small, you need to learn what character qualities need to be learned in order of their importance. This material was given out at the Bill Gothard Pastor's Seminar. It is very helpful, because it lists character qualities that are important at each stage of your child's growth.

He calls from birth to 6 years the Discipline or Foundation Stage. It is at this stage that your child can learn attentiveness, obedience, contentment, neatness, gratefulness and truthfulness. The age from 6 to 12 is the Training Stage. This is when children gather information. It is at this stage that they can actively learn patience, dependability, determination, punctuality, loyalty and fairness. The Skill Stage is from age 12 to 20. This is the time to learn self-control, wisdom, discretion, endurance, humility, love and creativity. The Apprenticeship Stage is from the age 20 - 30 when people are learning to serve. You can learn thoroughness, flexibility, availability and many more skills. From 30 to 50 is the Public Ministry Stage. From age 50 and upward is the Counsel or Guidance Stage. From death on is the Heritage Stage when the focus is on the written or living epistles of the lives that have been affected by your life.

## God's Truth About Heroes

### 4- How to Study Godly Men's Lives as a Family

Abraham, Moses, David, Ruth and Paul are people we have talked about. You can read their stories in the Bible. I think it is really good to get some material with character sketches if your children are the right age for it and use these books as references. Read stories using the Bible dictionary. Collect all of the information you can regarding one of these people. You will be amazed if you take a Bible dictionary and look up every reference you can about Peter. It will take days and days and days. You have the same experience if you take Moses or Paul or Abraham. List their strengths and weaknesses then deal with your own strengths and weaknesses relative to theirs.

You can pick a godly person and assign a biography to your children. You can ask them to write letters to the godly contemporaries of this age. Let them interview older Christians that you know who have lived a long time walking with God.

### 5- How to Look at Christian Success Stories

We must be careful how we view successful men who become Christians. The inference is that if a millionaire becomes a Christian, God got a plum. If an entertainer becomes a Christian, God got a gem. If a quarterback becomes a Christian, God got pure gold. What God got in each case was another vessel that needs to be filled by Him. We must be careful, because it is unfair to both them and our children to put them too quickly on a pedestal of success and to add the pressure of immediate spiritual responsibility to their newfound faith. Often times it is too much too soon and it cheats them of their right to have a spiritual childhood. So often God will temper their success in order to glorify the spiritual, to humble them personally or to develop their testimony through testing. Be careful that you don't glamorize Christian athlete's performances.

For an example don't tell your children, "You better watch this quarterback, he is a Christian." He then goes out on the field only to get nailed behind the line of scrimmage 8 times. He throws 27 incomplete passes and 4 interceptions and is carried from the game in a stretcher. Your son says, "Boy, it is neat to be a Christian." The danger is that athletes don't always win. Don't put them in that box and confuse your children and frustrate the athlete. Set their personal standards apart, not their performance. God may not allow their performance to be the same after they become a Christian. You can point to the way they win. You can point to the

## God's Truth About Heroes

way they behave when they lose. You can point to the way they take instruction and criticism. You can point to the way they take an injury. You can point to the way they handle priorities and the way they handle their money. You can point to the way they handle praise. You can point to the way they witness to their peers. You can point out the way they deal with the press and handle the pressures of the limelight. You can point to the way they handle their family. These are the important things.

So often we get so carried away that we get confused. We try to tell our children, "This person is a Christian. He is going to be a good one now." So often the career goes down, but his life goes up. His witness goes up. His character changes toward the better. We need to major on their character, not on their performance.

### 6- How to Find Character Qualities in Daily Experiences

The same passage I shared earlier is found in Psalm 101. Paraphrased, it says, "Let's make the godly of our land the heroes." It goes on to say that we should invite the godly into our homes. One thing you can do to promote godly characteristics in your children is to invite missionaries and guests speakers into your home in order to expose your children to those who have a ministry with the Word of God.

### 7- Teaching Children How to Pray According to Character Qualities

Don't teach them to pray only for healing or better circumstances, but to pray for patience and forbearance in hard circumstances. Help them at the end of the day to relate their experiences of the day to character qualities in other's lives and their own. Learn to relate character to nature by using some study materials concerning this. Learn to share from the newspaper or television set the news events and the character qualities that go along with the leadership of our nation and the needs there. Stop and discuss television shows both the good and the bad. Discuss the different characters and the qualities of life they either did or didn't have. Give prizes for the illustrations of character qualities. Above all, be sensitive to make the qualities you study a part of your own life. We need to be our children's heroes. If it doesn't work in us, they are not going to listen.

### 8- How to do a Composite of God's Wonder Woman or Superman

In order to do this, we can take certain passages of Scripture and lay them out to learn from them. You can study Proverbs 31

## God's Truth About Heroes

and I Peter 3. These are pictures of God's ideal of a woman. Help your children work their way through these Scriptures. God's Superman can be found in I Thessalonians, I Timothy, Titus and I Peter just to name a few. List the qualities and define them.

This is what we need to do to teach our children about heroes. If we don't make it work in our lives and in their lives, what will we have accomplished? Nothing. God knows that we need visible examples to look up to. Heroes. The Word of God is full of hundreds of them. God has given us some guidelines. We are to look for men and women who are single-mindedly committed to God. Their strength is in the Lord alone. They take no glory to themselves. Their life stands the test of time. Their character transcends their accomplishments.

Go home today and write up some questions to find out from your children and their friends just who their heroes are. Begin immediately or continue fervently, whatever the case may be, to make the godly in the land their heroes. We need to highlight the missionaries, the prayer warriors, the faithful who serve, the humble who lead and the men and women who reveal God through their lives. These people are our heroes. Our children need to understand this. Our job is to do that. Satan's job is to counterfeit this. He is doing a great job. It is about time that we as Christians stand up and reveal the difference between Satan's lies and God's truth about heroes. The difference is God's character.

Note: Russell wrote each of these lessons in a manner that would enable him to clearly communicate them to his weekly class. The grammar or punctuation you encounter may not be technically perfect, but you will certainly "hear" his unique gift for making the message applicable to the common man in everyday situations.

It's been said of him that he was really a writer who read his stuff. And that's a very accurate statement!

May you be richly blessed as you "hear" as you read.

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