

## HEROES

As I was growing up, in my childhood, I had many heroes. Most of them were the cartoon variety such as Superman, Batman and Robin, Spiderman, and Aqua man. A few years back from these were Captain Marvel, Mighty Mouse, and Flash Gordon. Each one of these characters stood for truth, justice and the opposition of evil. Within each adventure read in a comic book, seen at the movies, or watched on television, we saw the "bad guys" go to jail while the innocent was rescued. The good guys lived happily ever after.

But what has happened in our present-day society is that when as young children we grew older and need a new set of heroes. Superman becomes "flakey," Batman is a sissy (who would be caught dead wearing those tights?!), and Captain Marvel doesn't come close to the science fiction of today. In discarding these meaningful heroes for new ones, our search begins for people that exemplify the qualities we would like to have. As children our heroes told us what qualities of behavior were acceptable, but now we deem what is good and bad, and find a hero to support it.

Public figures such as a politician, professional athletes, and movie stars, are the likely candidates for being our heroes. We see the power, fame, and national recognition of those in public office. We see the home run hit in the 10th inning with the bases loaded to win the World Series. We see the movie star conquer cancer, clean up the local town, or protect our natural wildlife (all in the movies of course) while enjoying all the trips to the bank depositing the money made by the movies, personal appearances, and fan club dues.

The sad part about all of this is that each one of these kinds of heroes are human and are less than perfect when it comes to morals, ethics, and help with everyday problems. To the common people these "heroes" are but a fantasy of a lifestyle that is too good to be true. These heroes have very little lasting value because the Politician will be out of office soon, professional athletes have relatively short careers and even shorter periods of great fame and popularity, while movie stars become just "another pretty face" when another pretty face comes along.

If we really want to choose our heroes let us suggest the great men of the Bible. No, they are not perfect, but they do all have one thing in common which should be of great interest to all of us, and that is that even though they were not perfect in their life they worked for a perfect God and a perfect standard of daily righteousness. Abraham was a great man of faith, so much so that he was willing to sacrifice his own son to God. Noah was a preacher of righteousness and due to his obedience, saved himself and seven others in the great flood. Moses led the children of Israel through the wilderness in search of the promised land while enduring idol worship, murmuring, rebellion, and unbelief on the part of his followers. David was known as a man after God's own heart, writing many of the Psalms even though he had sinned before God. The list could go on with the names of Solomon, Elijah, Jeremiah, John the Baptist, the Apostles and of course Jesus Christ.

These men and the righteousness they have showed us should be our heroes, God richly blessed each one of them, and promises rich blessings for us if we will follow in their footsteps. Those of the Old Testament, looked toward the coming of Jesus, and those of the New Testament pointed back to Him as the hero of heroes.

The heroes of our youth are important to our total social growth but as we grow let us not look to the present day politicians, athletes, or actors as a model for our life, but to the men and women of the Bible as ones to look up to for strength and encouragement. This author likes Superman, Batman, and Mighty Mouse, but my heroes are Jesus, the Apostles, and a host of Old Testament faithful. Who are your heroes?