

The Big Idea: The power of Christ changes everyday life.

The Take-off:

Have you ever thought about the heroes in your life? Someone such as a soldier who has been in the military to serve for our nation's freedom. Or it was a parent who saved you from making many, many mistakes. Possibly, you are young at heart and those characters such as Captain America are your heroes. These people are often considered some of the greatest in the world. They either save lives or maybe they offer their life in exchange for someone else's. No matter what they do to become a hero, they are looked up to by the ones whom they are heroes to. Since we know what is so great about these heroes, let's think about what are some issues with these heroes. Well, the obvious is that some of these heroes do not exist outside of a movie theater or television screen, Captain America. Other than just this issue, all of our heroes are limited. Those heroes who serve in the military are amazing, yet they can only serve those who are directly near them. Our heroes can only be in one possible place at a time. They cannot even continually fight for their cause because they physically do not have the power to go without resting.

So what makes the ultimate hero? The ultimate hero, would be one who could protect all people from all of the worst plans. This ultimate hero, would be one who not only saved those whom he was fighting for, but would save everyone in the whole world. It is interesting that even in the movies, the heroes such as Captain America, has limitations. Even the imagination of movie makers sees the idea of an ultimate hero as to abstract. What if this was not the case? What if there was a hero who could change the life of everyone, every day? This person would be considered the Ultimate Hero, right? Well there is someone who possesses the powers like this...

You might have heard about this guy named Jesus, right? I hope so. Jesus unlike these other heroes, is not limited by anything. Jesus has been given authority and has the power to change lives in any capacity. In fact, Jesus can change the lives of every person, every day. In Luke 7:11-17, we experience the events of Jesus changing the life of a widow and her son. The power that Jesus possesses, allowed for Him to do three different actions. Through His power, Jesus changed the lives of those who saw Him and those who He touched. His power changes our lives the same way. We learned that;

1. The power of Christ responds to the broken.
 - a. Luke 7:12-14 describes the events of Jesus seeing a woman who had lost her only son.
 - i. On top of losing her only son, she had also lost her husband some point earlier. She was Broken!
 - b. Jesus saw the woman and His heart went out to her.
 - i. She did not have to come to Him grieving, but He saw her and had compassion on her.
 - c. Jesus told a grieving mother to not cry.
 - d. He then reached up and touched the bier that the young man was being carried on.
 - i. When the power of Christ touched the bier, the bearers stood still.
 - ii. This would probably been abstract for a normal burial ceremony.
 - e. Jesus saw the woman, and He sought to help her. In her brokenness, the power of Christ responded to the widow.
 - f. The love of Christ within us, shows us how to respond to the broken.
 - i. 2 Corinthians 2:14-15.
 - ii. When people are broken, Christ' love compels us to respond to them.

(What happens when the power of Christ responds to the broken? This leads us to the second action of the power of Christ, which is ...)

2. The power of Christ resurrects the dead to life.
 - a. In Luke 7:14-15, we see that Jesus had touched the bier and then He spoke to the young man.
 - i. The power of Christ speaks life into the dead.

- b. After Jesus spoke to the young man, the boy rose to life and was given back to his mother.
- c. Can you imagine the thoughts of the mother and son, who were separated by death but had now been reunited by the power of Christ?
- d. The power of Christ had the ability to raise the boy to life, but how does that happen today?
 - i. We have at one point all been dead, Ephesians 2:1-2.
- e. It is through the power of Christ that we are resurrected to life.
 - i. When the power of Christ resurrected me to life, my perspective of all people changed.

(What happens when the power of Christ responds to the broken and resurrects the dead to life? This leads us to the third action of the power of Christ, which is ...)

- 3. The power of Christ results in glory to God.
 - a. In Luke 7:16-17, we see the reaction of those who were following both the widow and Jesus.
 - i. They were in Awe (Fear) and praised God
 - b. The spoke of how a great prophet was among them, and how God had visited them.
 - c. Glory was given to God
 - i. The people spread the news throughout Judea and throughout the surrounding country.
 - d. When the power of Christ responds to the broken and resurrects the dead to life, then we see that the power of Christ results in glory to God.
 - e. We are to allow the power of Christ to result in glory to God in our lives.
 - i. Romans 14:8

The Landing

The ultimate Hero, no it is not Captain America, it is not even your parents or a soldier who gives their life for you. The ultimate hero, is one who can change all people, every day. The power of Jesus Christ, is the only power that can change all people every day. When the power of Christ works in our lives we begin to see how we live for Christ. When the power of Christ responds to the broken, we realize that we are compelled to respond to the broken. When the power of Christ resurrects our life from death to life, when then share the message that can do the same for others. Finally, when the power of Christ results in glory to God from our life, we begin to share God's glory in other people's life. So as you go out this week, ask for the power of Christ to change your everyday life.