

Christ Church Kid's Lesson

Jesus, the Suffering Hero

Mark 8:27-38

What do you think makes someone a hero? Can you think of any heroes? You might think of a hero as someone with great strength or special powers, or maybe someone who overcomes things and helps people. I happen to have some pictures with me so maybe we can identify who these heroes are. Okay, so here's Superman...he is powerful because he can fly, and he's incredibly strong, and he helps people...



Here's Captain America. He has incredible speed, strength, and endurance, and an awesome shield. He uses his powers to fight crime and keep the country safe.



And then we have some more “real-life” heroes or public figures...Here are some military heroes who give comforts and devotion to keep us safe.



Here's a sports star. A gold medalist gymnast.



And these days our medical professionals are huge heroes! Putting themselves in harm's way to keep us safe and healthy.

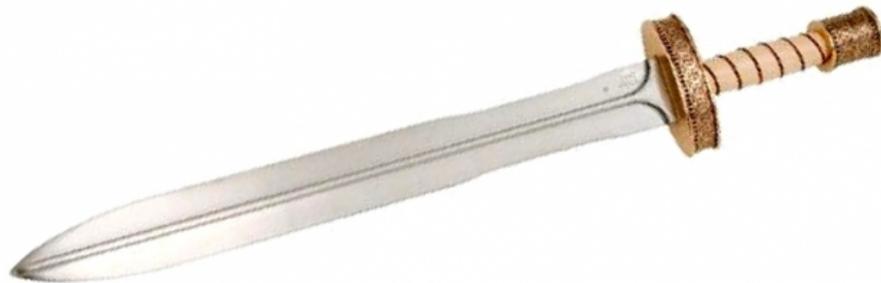


All of these heroes work hard for different things. Maybe they are trying to earn a medal, or a trophy, or a certificate...



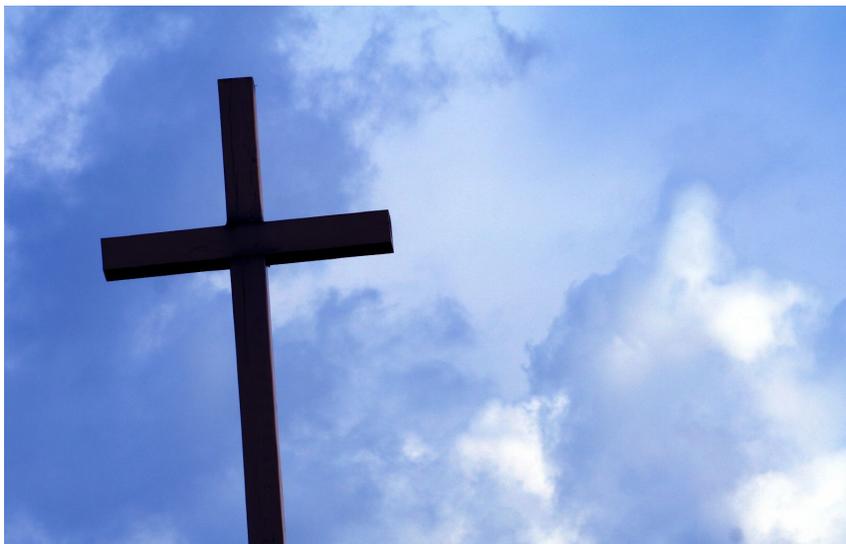


Wait a minute...how did that get in there? Why are these pictures in with my heroes? This isn't heroic...these things cause suffering and pain and death! These are execution techniques...





And you know what? So is this.



Jesus came to Earth to rescue and save people, but it didn't quite happen the way most people expected. People thought that He would be a powerful physical hero that would overthrow the oppressive Romans and set up a new kind of rule for the people.

But that's not the kind of hero Jesus was. He sort of threw a plot twist into expectations when He announced that He was going to suffer and die. Even his disciples didn't like hearing that. What kind of leader announces he's going to let himself be captured and killed? Peter tried to tell Jesus that He was speaking nonsense, but Jesus explained that he didn't recognize what he was talking about. Jesus came to take our place. He did overcome hardship...He overcame death itself, dying to conquer death! He did come to save, but not through politics. He came to save by taking our place and accepting punishments He didn't earn. Jesus was a servant who knew that glorifying God would only come through suffering and pain.

He knew this was all part of God's plan. God had spoken through prophets and covenants long before about how the Messiah would rescue everyone. The disciples didn't quite understand this part of the plan, and had a hard time accepting it. But we can recognize how important the work of Christ is. He suffered for our sake. And because of that, we also note that Jesus can understand when we go through hard things. There are a lot of things in our lives that are difficult or challenging. We might not understand what God is doing. But Jesus promises to be with us and always help us get through. He knows how hard life is, because He was willing to undergo pain and death for us. He will listen to our cries every time we pray.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us Jesus, the true hero

Help us to cling to Him when life is hard

And remember that He's been through it all!

We proclaim Him as Lord as we love one another

In Jesus's name, Amen!