

## EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

### Heroes, Part 2

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011

The two key characteristics of a hero: 1. Clarity - sees what needs to be done  
2. irresistible urge to act - does what needs to be done

We often have a moment of clarity but instead of acting we hesitate

When we hesitate, we lose our clarity, and we lose our sense of urgency

It is very difficult to maintain clarity and an urgency to act in an affluent culture which also resists the notion of absolutes (right & wrong)

If I do something, I might lose what I have, and I have a lot to protect

We "fog" the situation, and before long we don't feel compelled to do anything

We can talk ourselves into or out of anything

Probably most of us are doing something now that a few months or years ago we thought was absolutely wrong

Tolerance, which can be a good thing, becomes a smoke screen for a lack of clarity

Often it's the person who speaks into the "fog", speaks the clarity that God often uses to bring about incredible change

There is always a need for someone to see things clearly and act on what they see, but it can be very irritating when it happens

Jesus was one of "these" people who said what needed to be said & it bothered people

People were irritated because Jesus saw the world in simplistic terms – there's a God, obey Him

The story of the Good Samaritan is the result of someone trying to dodge clarity

Luke 10:25 (NIV) "On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus answered questions based on the motivation of the questioner

This man was trying to discredit Jesus because people were beginning to follow Him

Luke 10:26-28 (NIV) "What is written in the Law?" He replied. 'How do you read it?' He answered: 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 'You have answered correctly,' Jesus replied. 'Do this and you will live.'"

This man turns on his personal fog machine because he can't leave things that clear

Luke 10:29 (NIV) "But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

It's often this kind of question that draws us into a discussion that ends with no moral or ethical clarity and no reason to do anything

It's dangerous when you have clarity but don't act with urgency, you run the risk as a family, nation, culture of ending up not knowing what to do and doing nothing

Luke 10:30-33 (NIV) "In reply Jesus said: 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, when he fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him and went away, leaving him half dead. A priest happened to be going down the same road, and when he saw the man, he passed by on the other side. So too, a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he took pity on him.'"

The Samaritan saw what needed to be done, and he felt appropriately

Luke 10:34-36 (NIV) "He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put the man on his own donkey, took him to an inn and took care of him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Look after him,' he said, 'and when I return, I will reimburse you for any extra expense you may have.' 'Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?'"

Jesus said the man was asking the wrong question. The question wasn't "who is my neighbor?" but "how do I act neighborly?"

Luke 10:37 (NIV) "The expert in the law replied, 'The one who had mercy on him.' Jesus told him, 'Go and do likewise.'"

The real neighbor is the one who saw what needed to be done and did it; somehow he didn't talk himself out of helping the wounded man

When you see a need, meet it; when you know the right thing to do, do it. That's what is honoring to God, and that's what heroes do

Question: Where have you lost your sense of clarity, your sense of I know this is the thing to do

When you refuse to get caught up in irrelevant questions that cause you to lose sight of what you know you should do, and you follow Christ's commands, you will honor God and be a hero and something may change

**My Next Step Today Is...**