

## Life: A Hero's Story

### Part 1: The Rescue / Sermon 2: The Compassion

September 15, 2019

#### Opening

We love hero stories – in part because they are echoes of our own story. Now we tend to focus on what a hero does. But before he / she does what he does, he often sees what others can't see, and feels what others don't feel, or finds intolerable what they have learned to tolerate.

1. Many would agree our world is a mess; murders; kidnapping; child molesting; robbery; illegal drug use; lying; cheating; etc.
  - a. What do you see when you look around?
  - b. What do you see when you look in the mirror, do you see yourself as a mess?
  - c. Do you see a good moral person or a sinner?

The British Medical Journal calculate that 361,000 children a year die from diarrhea alone. Then you add on stuff like cholera, dysentery, hepatitis A, typhoid, hookworm, roundworm, polio. It's a mess! And the World Health Organization thinks the problem is even bigger! They tell us that 2.1 billion people lack safe drinking water at home, (and) more than twice as many lack safe sanitation."

2. When you hear of stats like this how do you react?
  - a. Disgust
  - b. Pity
  - c. Overwhelming
  - d. Heart-broken
  - e. So self-absorbed you could care less – it's their problem
3. Do you believe a hero can be jaded or have a calloused heart? Why or Why not?
4. How can you get people to recognize they are sinners?

**Scripture** Rom. 3.23

for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

5. When you hear of or see others sinning, how does it affect you?
6. Describe a time when you spoke to someone about their sinful condition and they blew it off. How did you react?
7. Read the following passage and explain how this teaching fits us today.

**Scripture** Matt. 9. 35-38

Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. <sup>36</sup> When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. <sup>37</sup> Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. <sup>38</sup> Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field

8. Do you believe God is compassionate? Why?
9. Do you believe God is too busy or too powerful to care for mankind? Explain

10. How has God shown compassion in your life?

11. Read the following passage and explain what the verse means to you.

**Scripture** Psalm 8. 3-6

When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, <sup>4</sup> what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them? <sup>5</sup> You have made them a little lower than the angels and crowned them with glory and honor. <sup>6</sup> You made them rulers over the works of your hands; you put everything under their feet:

12. When you see a fellow Jesus-follower caught up in sin do you tend to lean away from them and the situation or do you lean into them with compassion? Explain.

13. Just as we can become callous to the mess our world is in, we can also become callous to sin. Have we become callous to our sin or the sin about us? Explain.

14. You can come to church and sing songs and take communion, you can go home and read your Bible and pray every day, but until that day you accept that you are loved by God, and accepted by God, you haven't yet fully believed.  
a. Have you accepted that you are loved by God?