

3-26-2016, COTR Texarkana

Title: Jesus is My Superhero

Purpose: Provoke people to believe what Jesus did and said and act on His promise.

Spiritual Truth: I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me...Jesus Christ, John 14:6

Text: John 21:25

Topic: Easter, Resurrection, Salvation, Cross, Sin

Series: Heroes

Series Purpose: Provoke people to follow the example of Biblical heroes.

Jesus is my Superhero!

I. Introduction

- A. **Video:** That Tomb is Still Empty. These kids know Easter is more than rabbits and eggs.
- B. **New series today called “Heroes”.** Over the next 6 weeks I hope to inspire you by the examples of Biblical heroes/ role models to deal with issues we face in daily life.
 - B.1. Listen to messages @ChurchOnTheRock.org or on the COTR iPhone/ Android app
 - B.2. Def. hero: someone we admire for their achievements or character; someone we want to be like; someone who rescues me from trouble, e.g. Liam Neeson in Taken, Peyton Manning scoring with seconds remaining or Mother Teresa in Calcutta.
 - B.3. As a boy my heroes were Superman **6am**, Tarzan, Daniel Boone, Joe Namath and Brooks Robinson. At 19 I was born again + found a new hero, Jesus, my Superhero.
- C. **Title: Jesus is My Superhero**
- D. **Purpose: Provoke people to believe what Jesus did and said and act on His promise.**
- E. **Spiritual Truth:** I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me...Jesus Christ, John 14:6

II. Jesus is our Superhero! (last verse of the Gospel of John)

- A. **John 21:25 (NLT)** Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose **the whole world could not contain the books that would be written.** What Jesus said and did changed the world! Here’s some amazing facts about Him:
- B. **(1)** There are 2.3 billion followers of Jesus who have never met Him but claim they know Him. **(2)** The Jesus Film has been seen by 3 billion people. **(3)** Details of His life and death were predicted by prophecy hundreds of years before he was born. **(4)** Guinness world records says the Bible, which is the story of Jesus, is the world’s best-

selling book year after year. (5) He's mentioned on more websites than any other person. Some of the biggest charities in the world are inspired by Him. Every day He is mentioned by name more often than any other person. His birth divides time on our calendar. (6) I asked the **gods of google** who is the most important person who ever lived. They quoted a data driven article by Time Magazine that said it was Jesus Christ.

B.1. You may not be a follower of Jesus but these facts demand serious consideration.

B.2. Pascal's wager: all humans bet with their lives that God exists or he does not and a rational person should seek to believe in God because of eternity in Heaven or Hell.

III. **The most important thing Jesus did:** He was crucified and rose from the dead.

A. **Mark 8:29–31 (NIV)** ...Who do you say I am?" Peter answered, "You are the Messiah (*the Savior of the world*). ...31 He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer...and be rejected...and that **he must be killed and after three days rise again.**

A.1. History says this prediction came true; why is it so important?

A.2. Jesus came to life after He died never to die again. No one else has done this. 500+ people saw Him. He promised eternal life to those who believe and follow Him.

B. **Why was His death** on the cross so important? 1 Peter 2:24 (NCV) **Christ carried our sins** (*all the wrong we've done*) **in his body on the cross**...Eg J Sin's a debt that must be paid, e.g. felony Ro. 6:23 (NCV) The payment for sin is **death**...(separation from God) Sin is why people will go to hell on Judgment Day. We're all guilty. Ps. 51:5 (NLT) **For I was born a sinner**— yes, from the moment my mother conceived me. We need forgiveness for sin, e.g. mortgage default, sheriff foreclosing; Jesus offers to pay our debt in full. Jesus paid the price for my sins I can't afford to pay.

C. **Jesus offers the only way to get to heaven.** John 14:6 (NCV) Jesus answered, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. **The only way** to the Father is through me.

C.1. Why is He the only way to heaven? Only He dealt with sin in a way that was acceptable to God. We can't get to heaven by good works, religious rituals or being a good person. We need a Savior so we can live. // We're like a drowning man and Jesus gave us His life jacket (life) so we could be saved., e.g. Titanic Jack and Rose Jn 15:13 (NLT) There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends

D. **What does His resurrection mean for us?** We can live after we die.

D.1. 1 Cor. 15:20–22 (NCV) But Christ has truly been raised from the dead—the first one and proof that those who sleep in death will also be raised...22 In Adam all of us die. In the same way, **in Christ all of us will be made alive again.** E.g. funerals

IV. **The most important thing Jesus said:** I want to make your life better.

A. **John 10:10 (ESV)**...I came that they may have life and have it abundantly, (MSG real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of.) (NLT) a satisfying life.

A.1. Jesus will help me have a better life now and eternal life when I die. He doesn't promise a trouble free life but He said He'd give us peace in the storm; He said He'd take care of us and always be with us. I've found this to be true.

A.2. LaNell's cancer 3 years ago. I was reading my Bible and the phrase "It is well" leapt off the page. God was speaking directly to me and from then on I knew it would be ok. Rebekah, at 13, lived in denial until she couldn't handle it, she opened her Bible and found hope to face the giant of fear. E.g. Jesus hero marriage, drugs, suicide...

A.3. Where do you turn when life is overwhelming? God says you can turn to Him. Ps. 61:1-3 (NLT) O God...2...**I cry to you for help when my heart is overwhelmed.** (NIV) **lead me to the rock that is higher than I.** 3 for you are my safe refuge...

V. **Jesus' most important promise:** Those who believe in Me will have eternal life.

A. **John 3:1-16 (ESV)** Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus...2 This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." 3 Jesus answered him...unless one is **born again** he cannot see the kingdom of God..."...16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that **whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.**

A.1. Being religious, going to church and being good won't get us to heaven, we must be born again. "Born again" is a spiritual rebirth in which God changes us on the inside when we believe in Him and start following Him.

A.2. Believe means to trust and rely on Jesus for salvation, e.g. Picture **L** zipline It's called faith. Believing implies acting, e.g. If you believe it's going to rain you roll up your windows. If you believe in Jesus you follow Him.

A.3. I was raised in church. I had head knowledge about Jesus but didn't really believe. I wasn't following Him. I'd never given Him the keys to my life. Are you like I was?

VI. **Conclusion:** I'd going to give you a chance to commit your life to Christ today.

A. **Summary:** The most important thing Jesus did, His crucifixion and resurrection was for us. He wants to forgive our sin and give us hope for eternal life. The most important thing He said was that He wants to give us a better life now and for eternity. His most important promise says we can be born again if we believe in Him.

- B. **Maybe you're not a believer but you want to be.** You can ask Jesus to save you right now. Maybe you haven't been living for God; you're not following Jesus but you're ready to start. If you want to commit your life to Christ lift your hand and we'll pray.
- C. **Ask neighbor. Ru 100% sure.** Walk down with you.
- D. **Why am I doing this?** Matthew 10:32–33 (NLT) “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.
- E. **Baptism and meal Wed night**
- F. *** *Logos Bible Software and library were used to prepare this message.*