



The Hero In You

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Go on, tell me about your bad day.



Colleen Gleeson, Junior, Clemson University, “Overuse of words removes meaning,” *The Tiger*, 6/19/06

“We destroy words. As a culture, we sensationalize words and expressions to such an extraordinary extent that they lose their meaning. ... Consider the word ‘hero’ in our society. By using the term so broadly, we have managed to group someone donating blood with soldiers dying in hand-to-hand combat. Workers in the World Trade Center are considered in the same class of ‘hero’ as the firefighters who entered the fated buildings by their own free will in order to save lives. Giving blood is a noble activity, just as the loss of life in the collapse of the Twin Towers is a travesty ... but in a broad sense, it would be a disservice to the truly brave to consider either party ‘heroes.’”



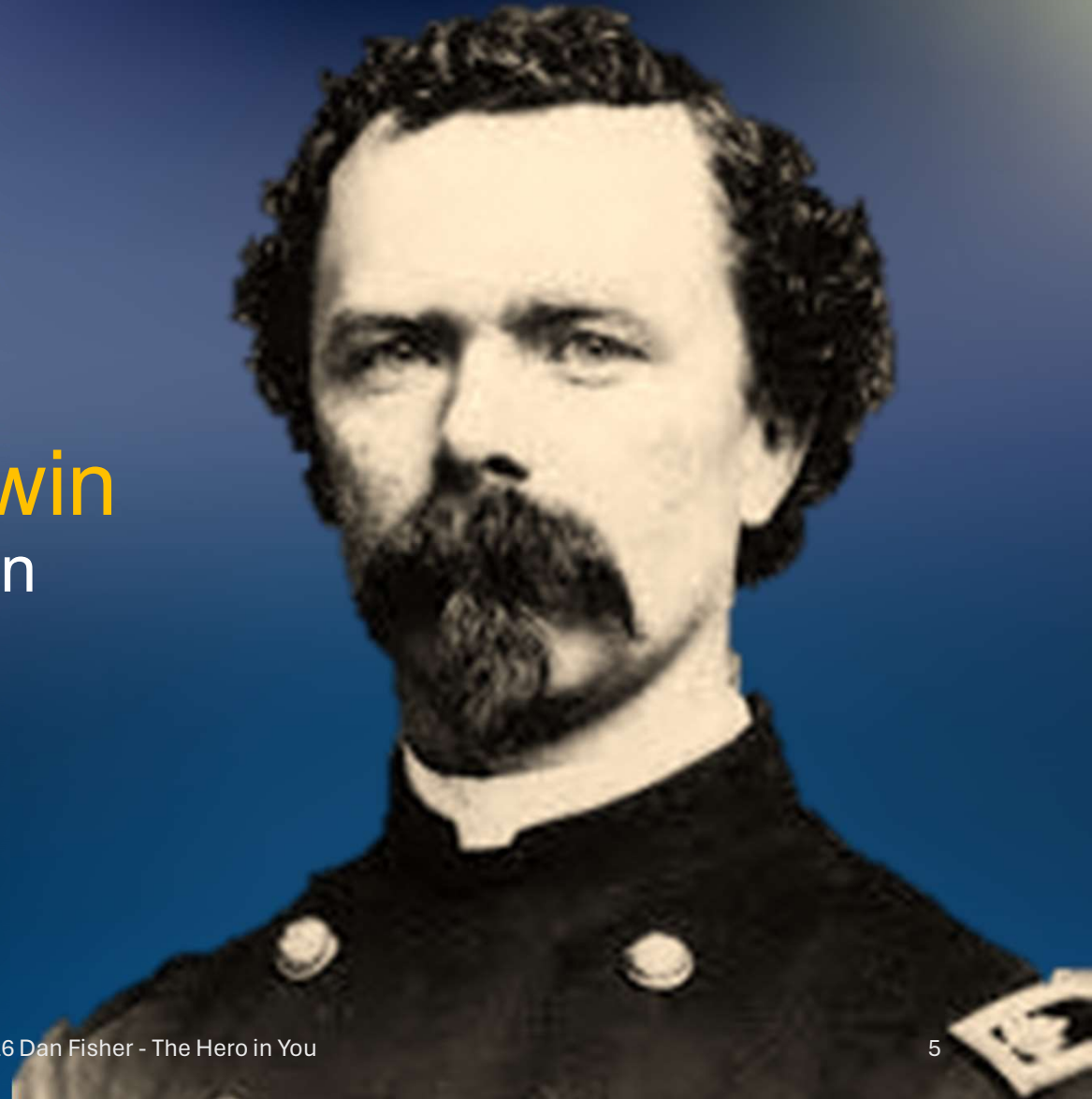
Former soldier:

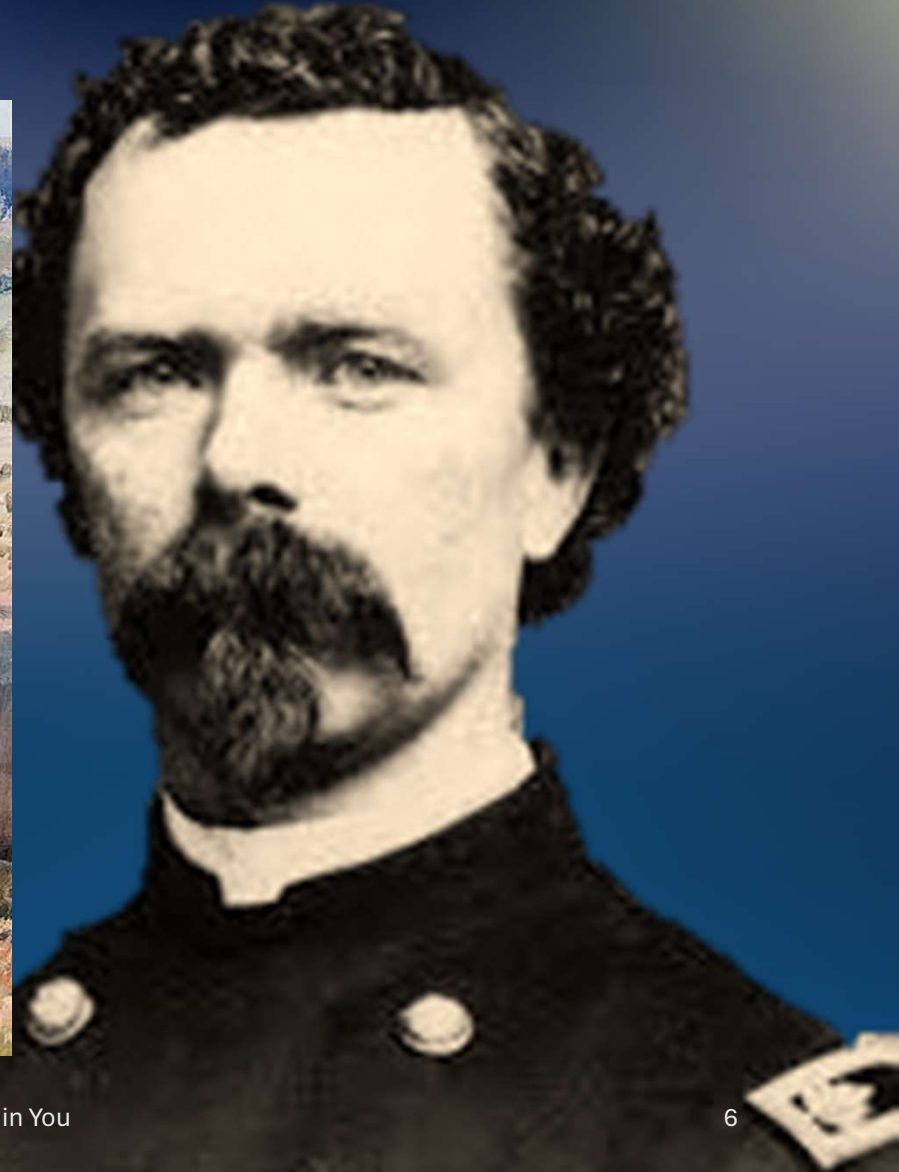
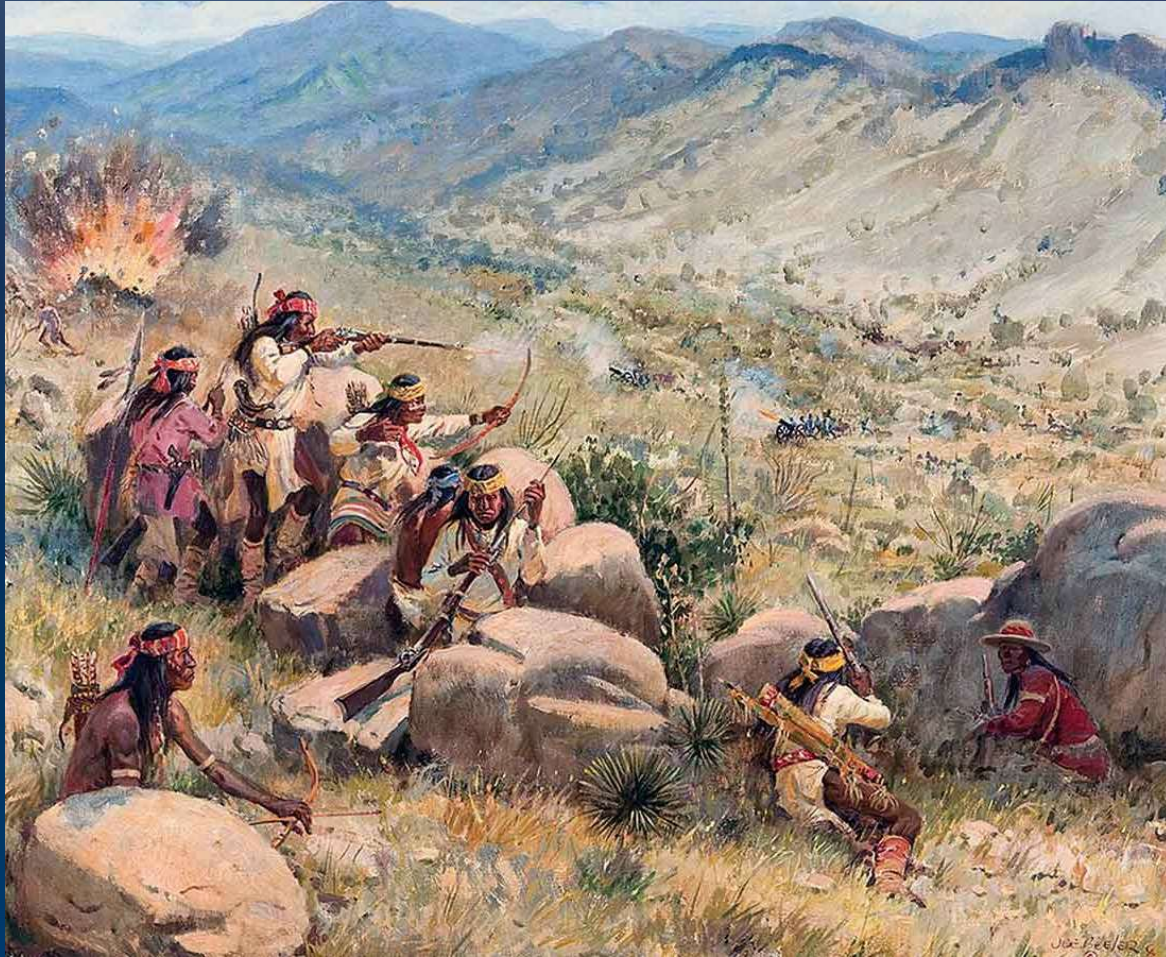
“Look, merely serving in the military, or law enforcement, or in a fire department does not make one a ‘hero.’ I served 25 years, and my service was noble perhaps, selfless, most certainly. Difficult – you bet ... but heroic? Nope. Everyone is a hero these days, and the overuse of the word diminishes it. It’s time to lose a few heroes.”

Newsvine.com

Bernard J.D. Irwin

U.S. Army Surgeon

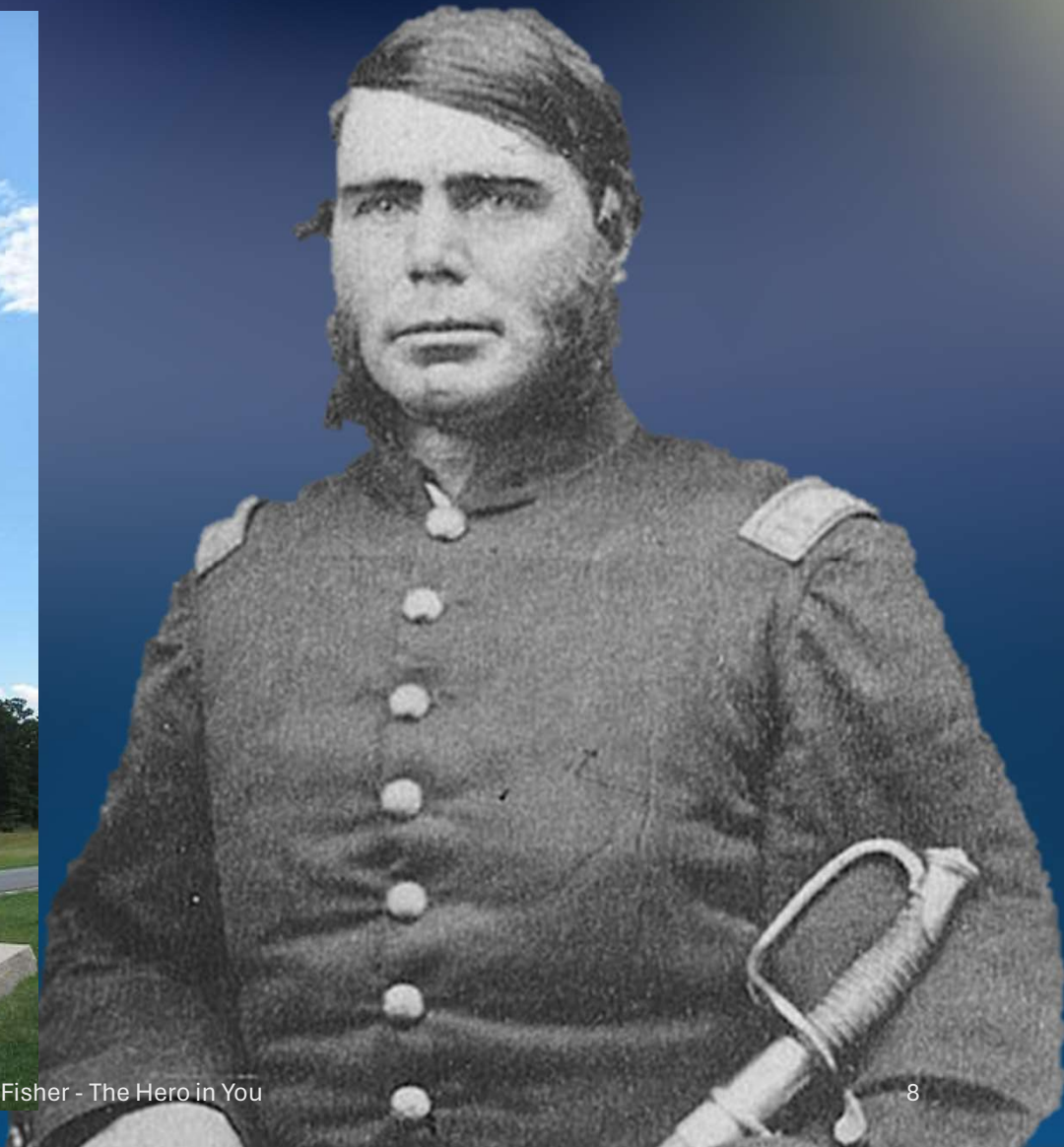




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For his actions on Jan – Feb 1861, Bernard Irwin was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor on January 21, 1894.



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William N. Irvine
Color Sergeant 1st Minnesota



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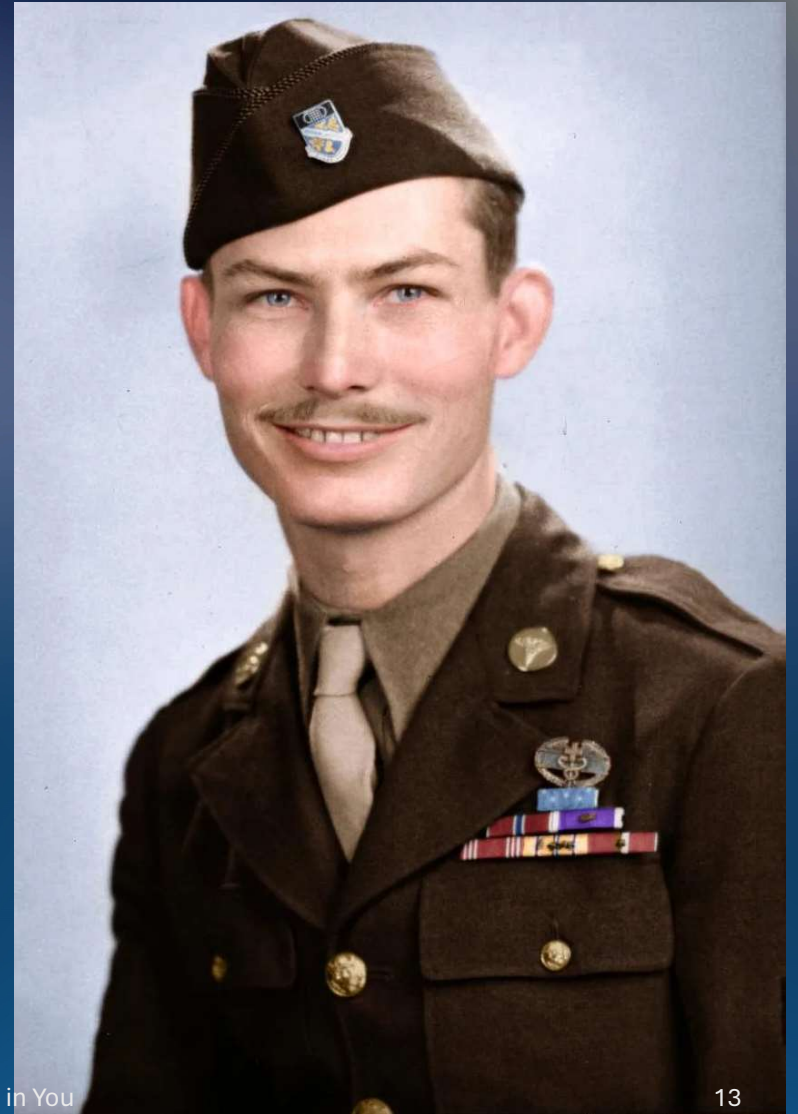
Medal of Honor award ceremony
April 21, 1942

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Eddy O'Hare was shot
down on Nov 26, 1943



Desmond Doss
Medic, 307th Regiment, Co. B

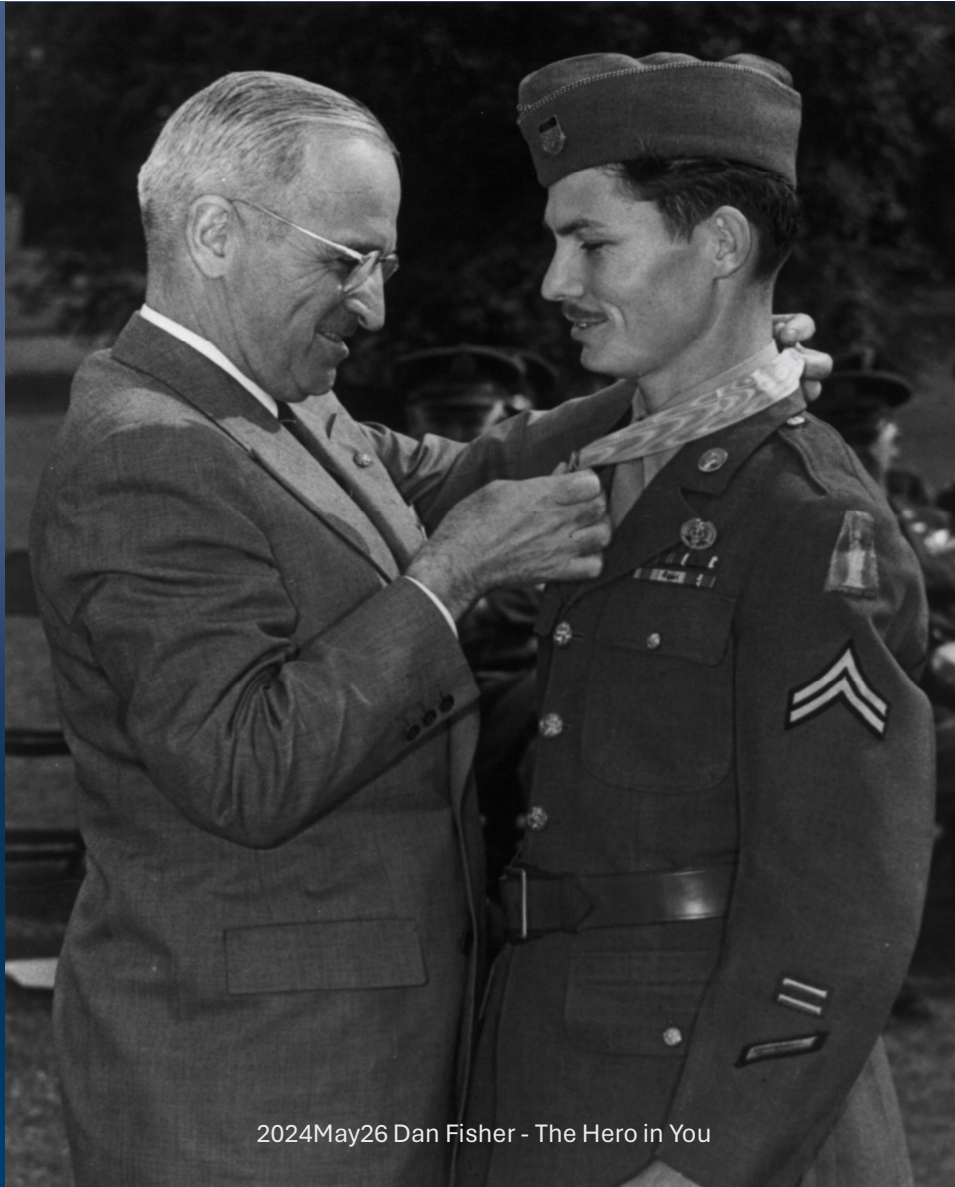




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What is a *true* hero?

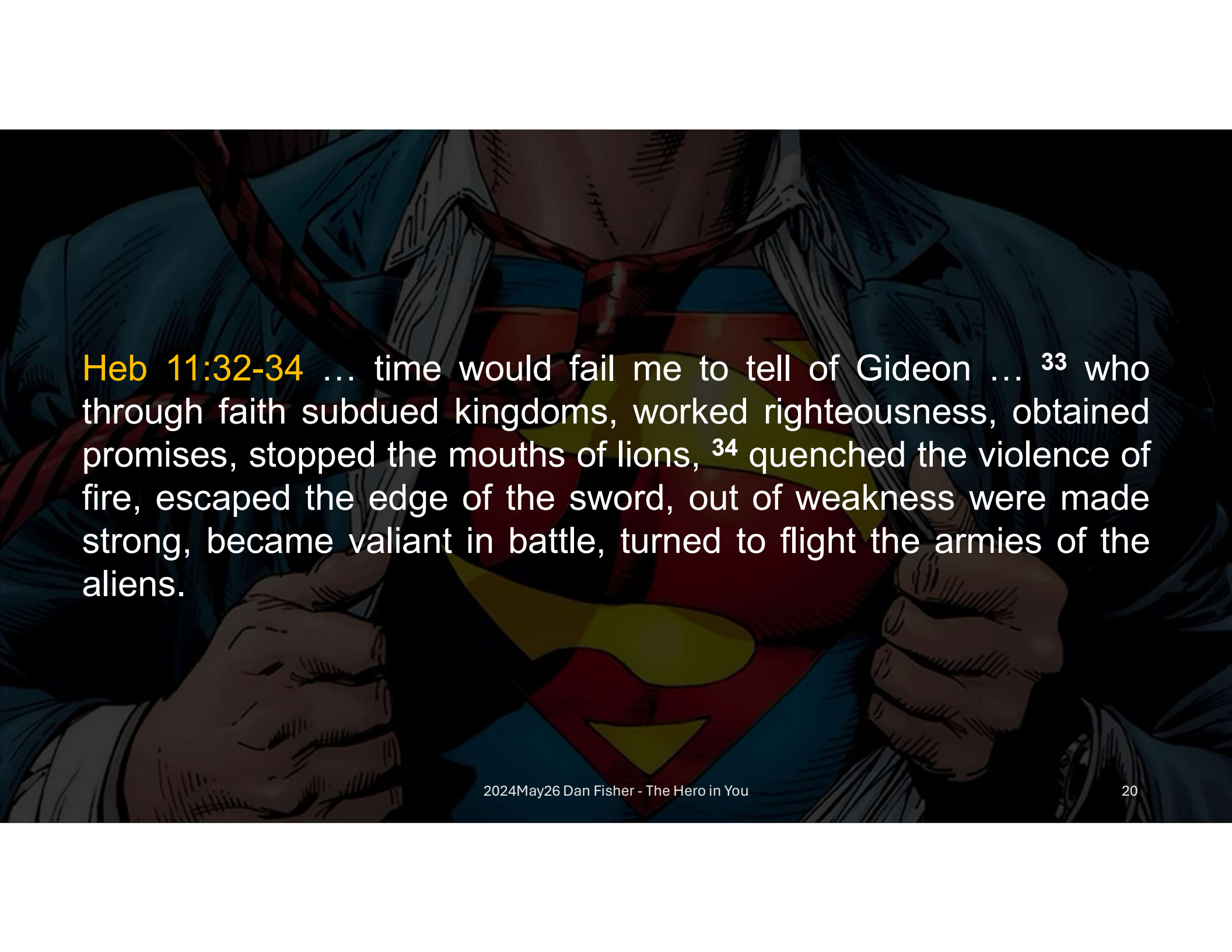
Hero: a person admired for achievements and noble qualities; one who shows great courage.



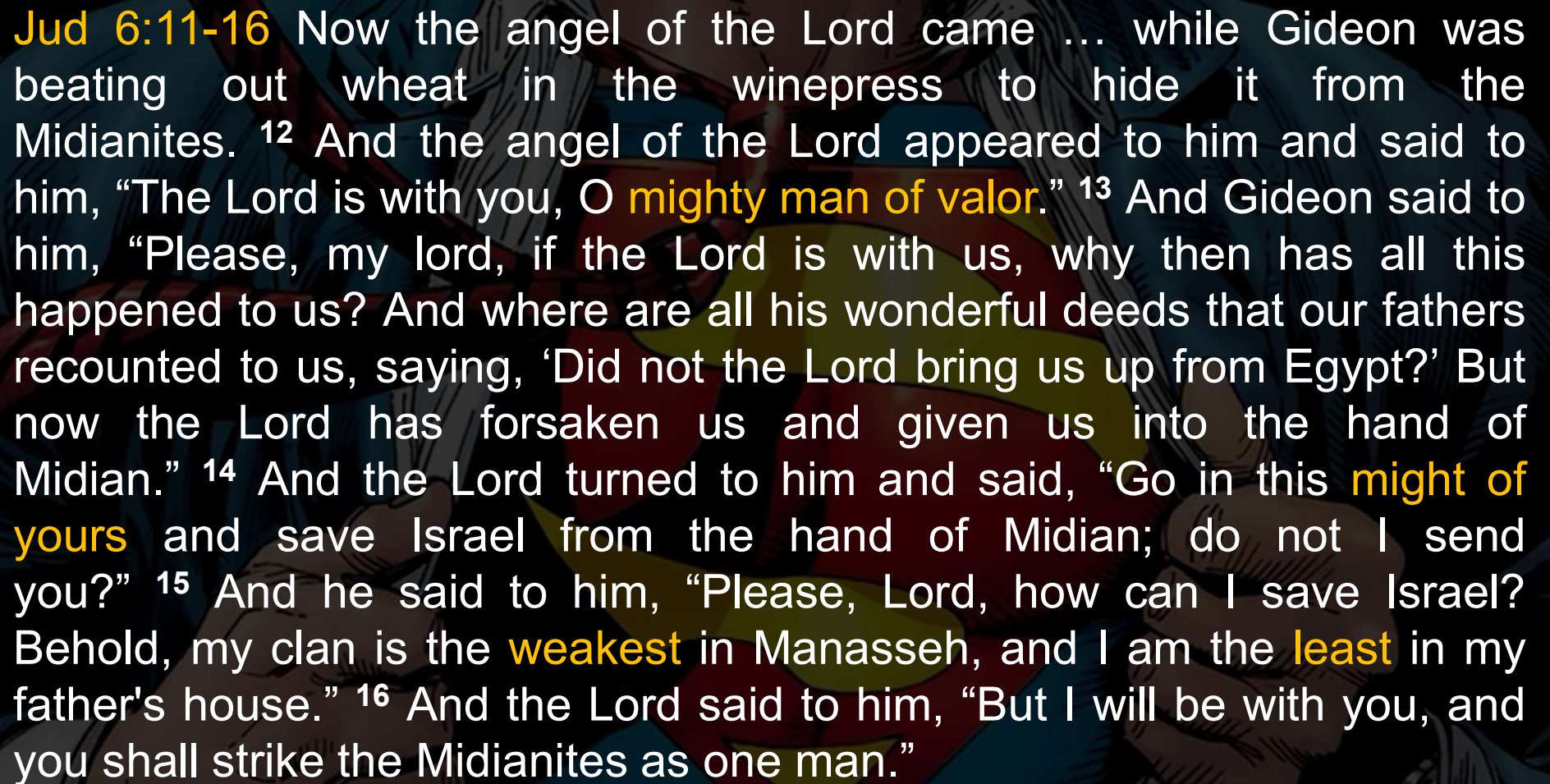
1. There is a *potential* hero in you!



1 Cor 16:13 Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave,
be strong.



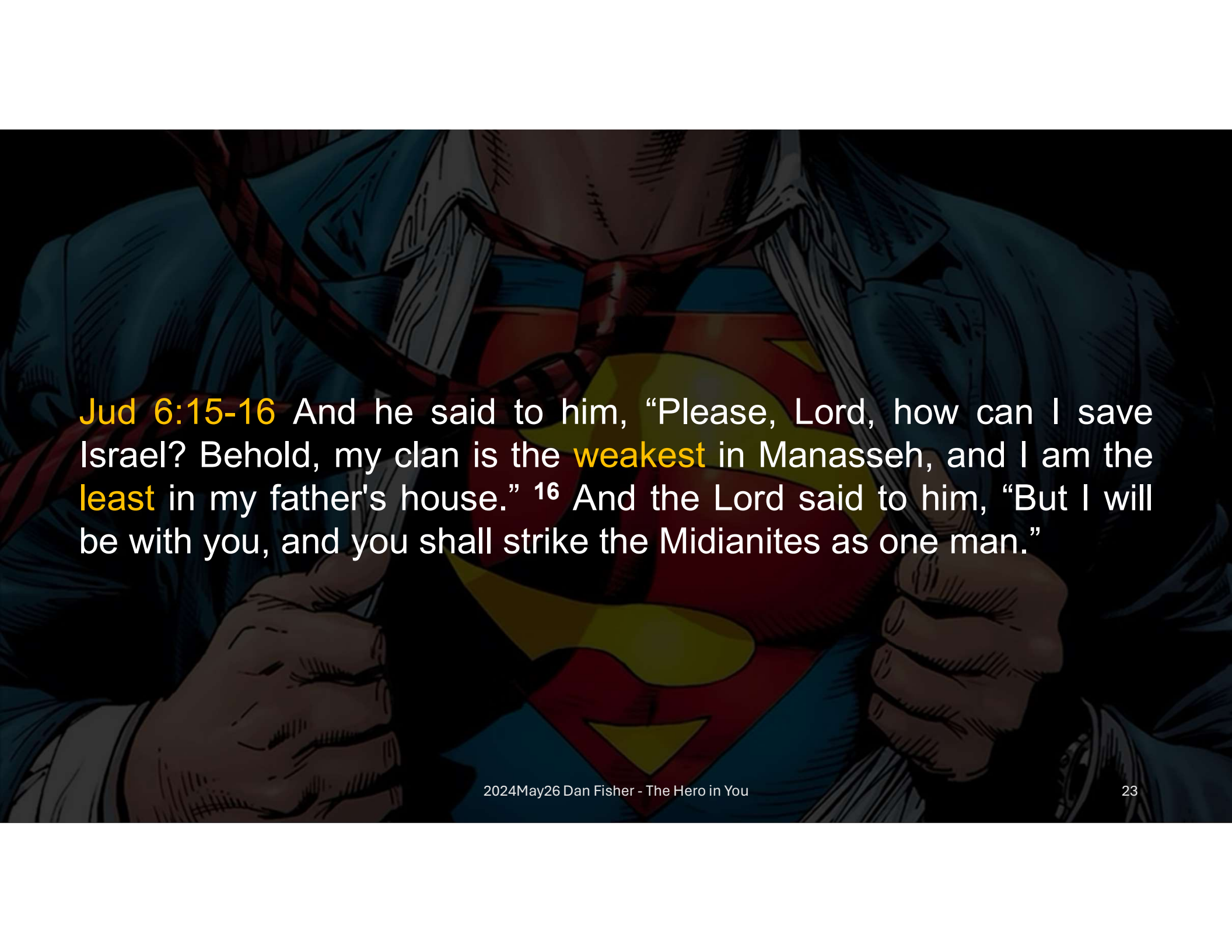
Heb 11:32-34 ... time would fail me to tell of Gideon ... ³³ who through faith subdued kingdoms, worked righteousness, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the violence of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, out of weakness were made strong, became valiant in battle, turned to flight the armies of the aliens.



Jud 6:11-16 Now the angel of the Lord came ... while Gideon was beating out wheat in the winepress to hide it from the Midianites. ¹² And the angel of the Lord appeared to him and said to him, “The Lord is with you, O **mighty man of valor**.” ¹³ And Gideon said to him, “Please, my lord, if the Lord is with us, why then has all this happened to us? And where are all his wonderful deeds that our fathers recounted to us, saying, ‘Did not the Lord bring us up from Egypt?’ But now the Lord has forsaken us and given us into the hand of Midian.” ¹⁴ And the Lord turned to him and said, “Go in this **might of yours** and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?” ¹⁵ And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the **weakest** in Manasseh, and I am the **least** in my father's house.” ¹⁶ And the Lord said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”



Heroes are **common** people

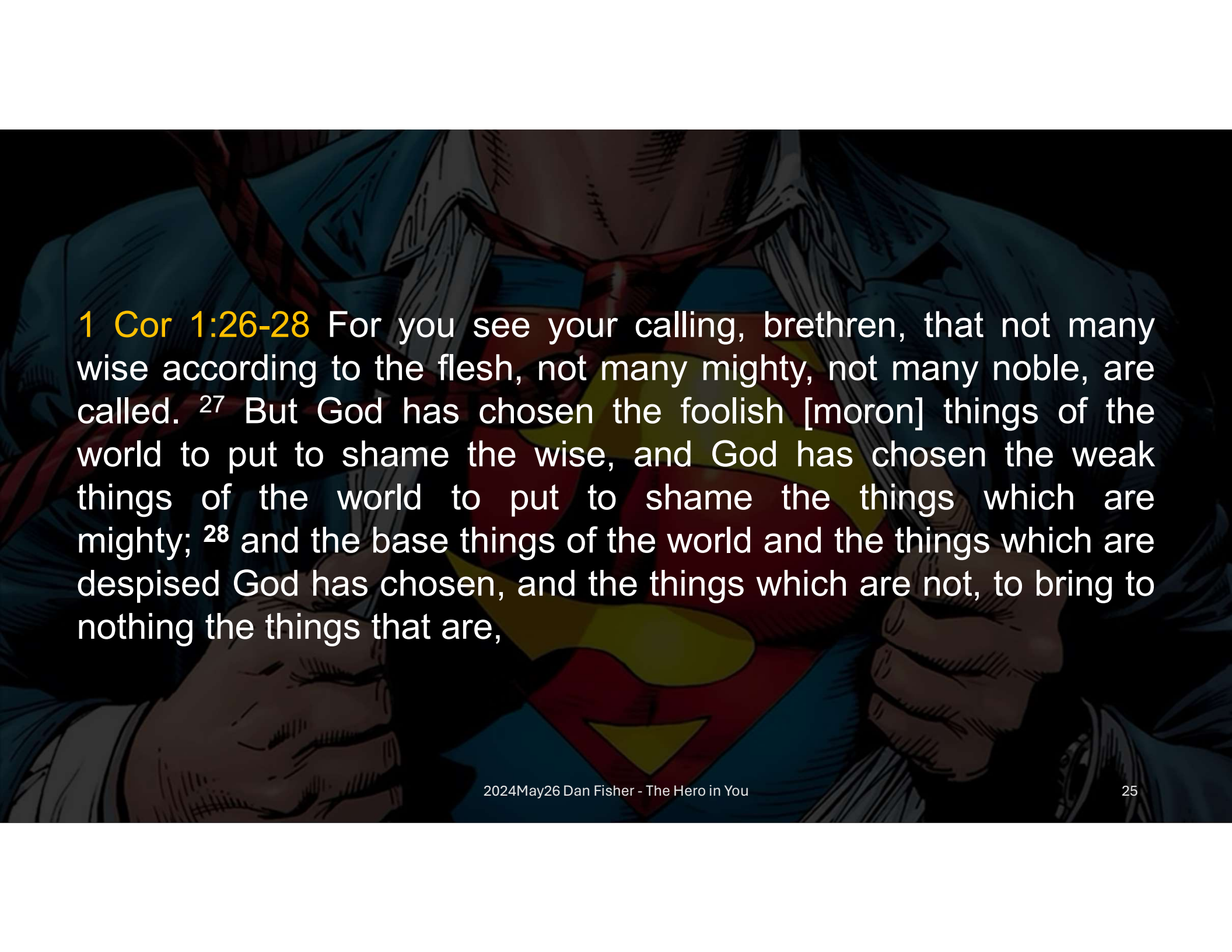


Jud 6:15-16 And he said to him, “Please, Lord, how can I save Israel? Behold, my clan is the **weakest** in Manasseh, and I am the **least** in my father's house.” ¹⁶ And the Lord said to him, “But I will be with you, and you shall strike the Midianites as one man.”



Moses said the same – Ex 3

- I'm a nobody
- I don't have all the answers
- People won't believe me
- I'm not a good public speaker
- I'm not qualified



1 Cor 1:26-28 For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. ²⁷ But God has chosen the foolish [moron] things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; ²⁸ and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are,



2. The hero within you must be unleashed



Heroes are **consecrated** people



Jud 6:19-23 – Gideon offered a sacrifice to God

Jud 6:28-29 – Gideon tears down the altar of Baal



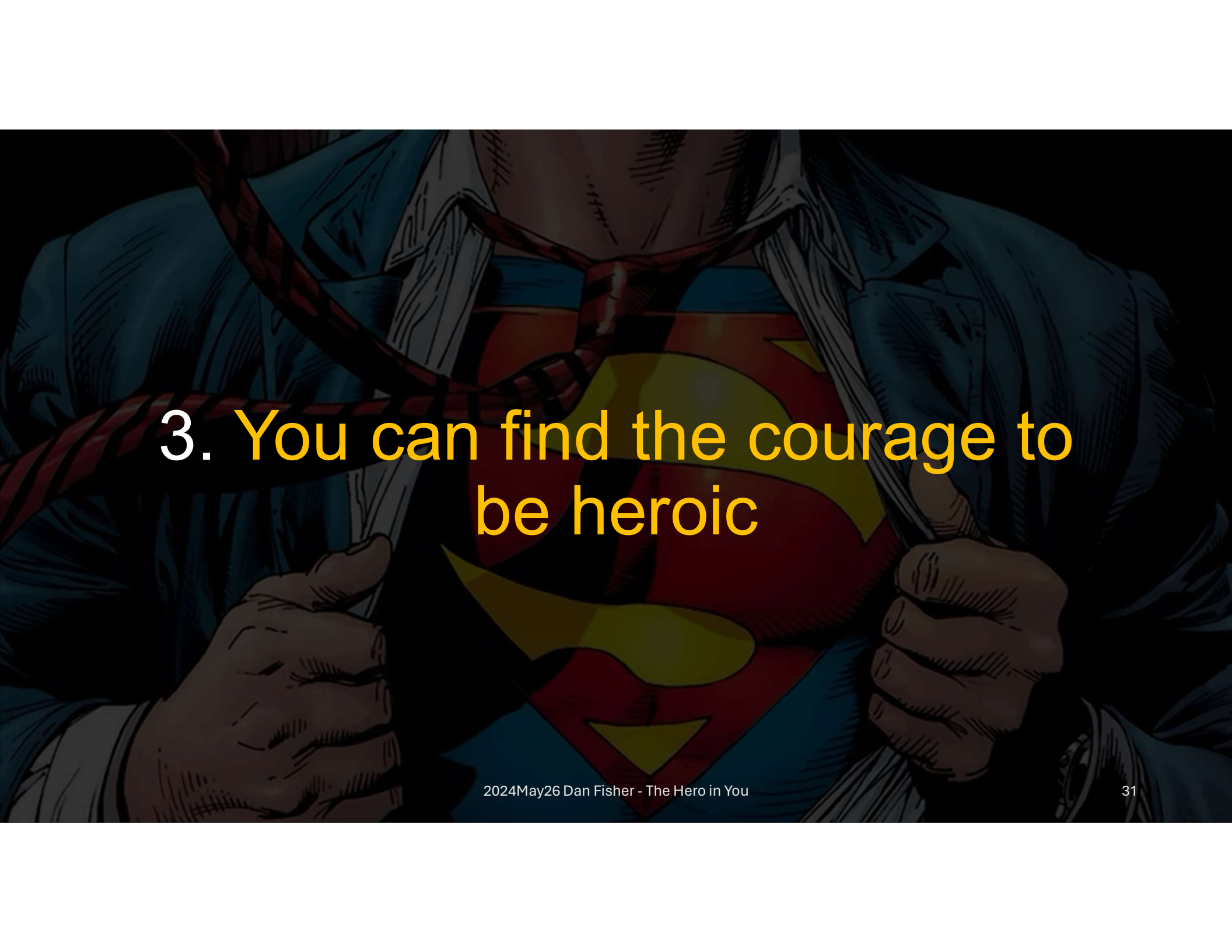
Heroes are careful people



Jud 6:36-40 – Gideon verified God's will

6:34 But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon
[Spirit clothed Himself with Gideon like a suit of clothes]

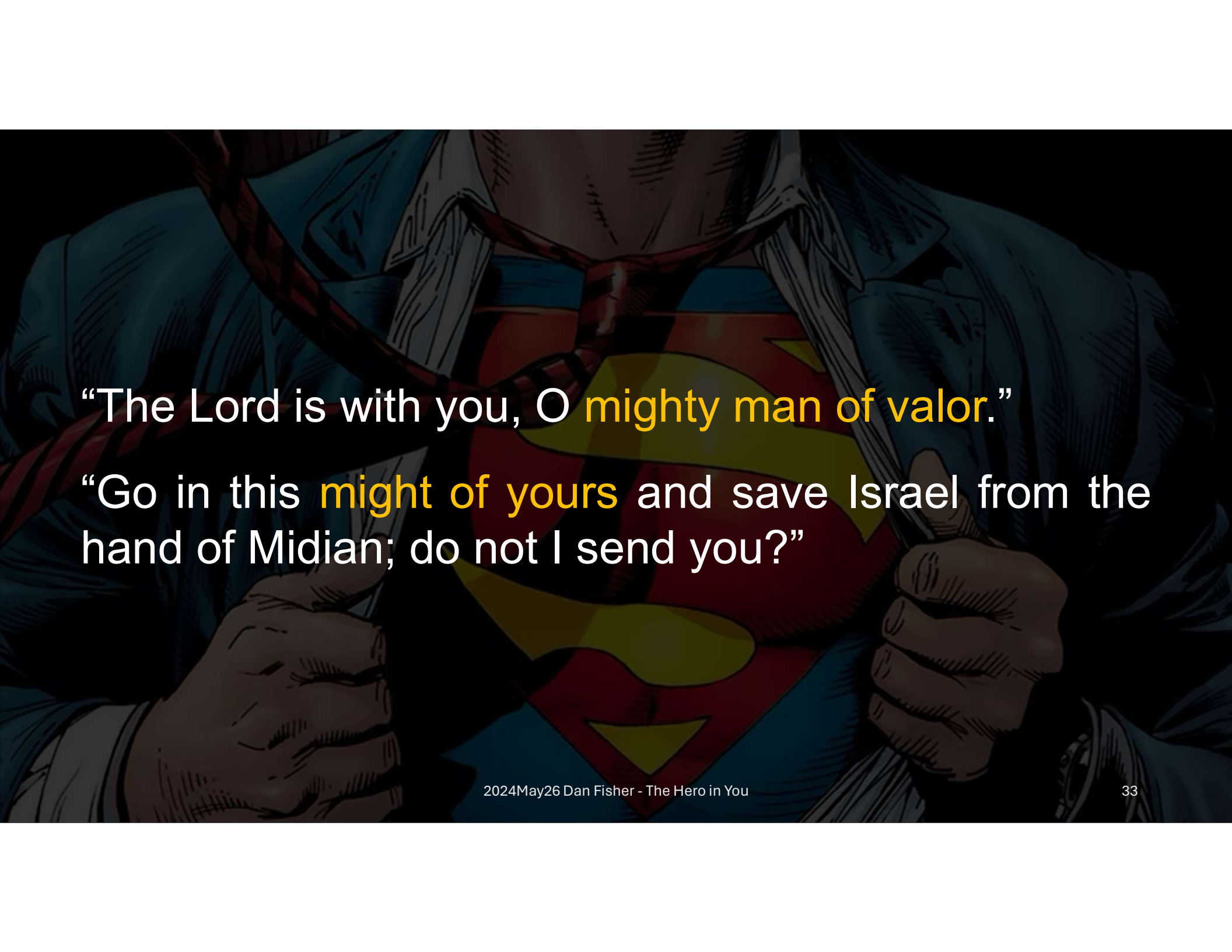
Jud 7:1-8 – Gideon's army was reduced from 32,000
to 300 by only keeping the careful/cautious



3. You can find the courage to be heroic

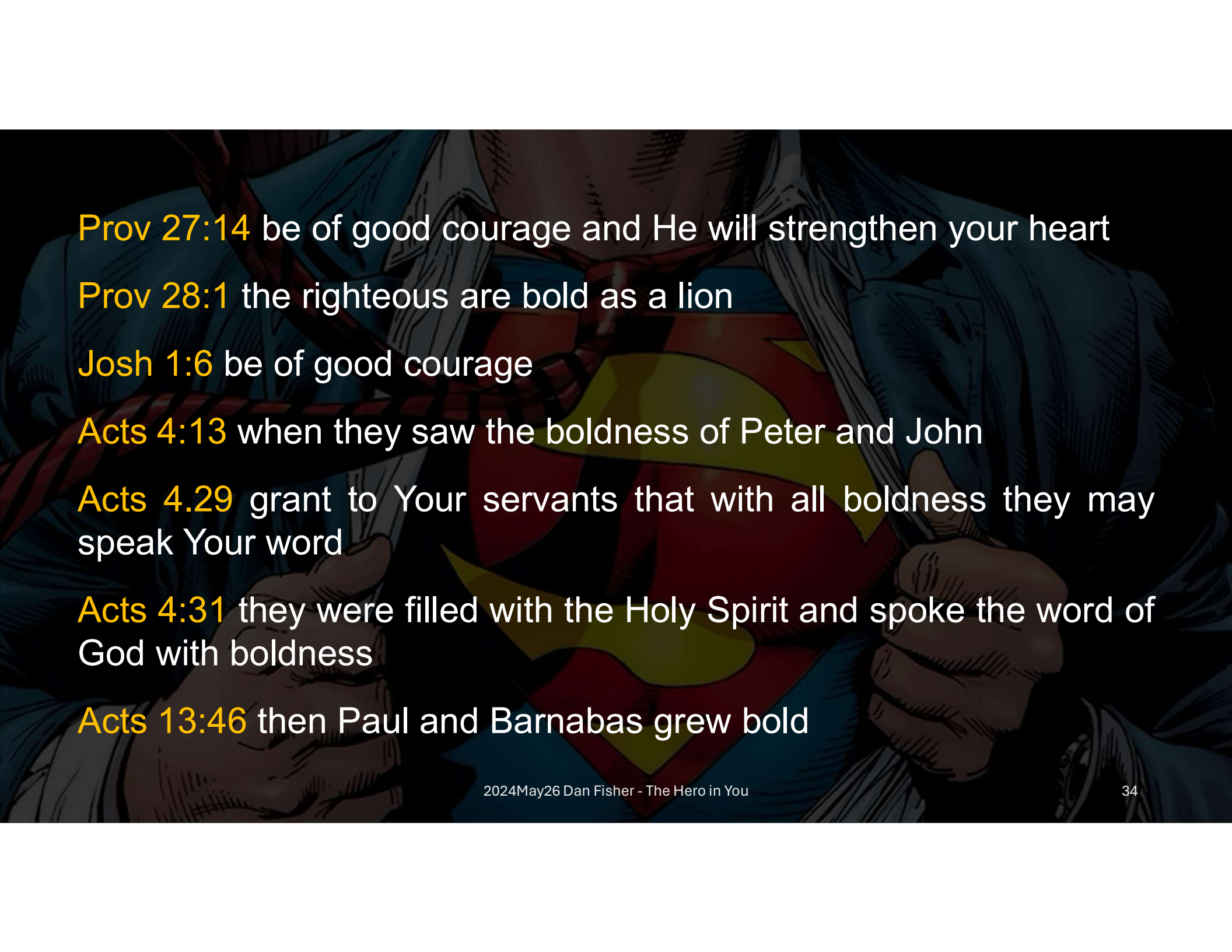


Heroes are **courageous** people



“The Lord is with you, O **mighty man of valor.**”

“Go in this **might of yours** and save Israel from the hand of Midian; do not I send you?”



Prov 27:14 be of good courage and He will strengthen your heart

Prov 28:1 the righteous are bold as a lion

Josh 1:6 be of good courage

Acts 4:13 when they saw the boldness of Peter and John

Acts 4:29 grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word

Acts 4:31 they were filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God with boldness

Acts 13:46 then Paul and Barnabas grew bold



Heroes are confident people



Jud 7:9-15 — God encourages Gideon with the dream of a Midianite

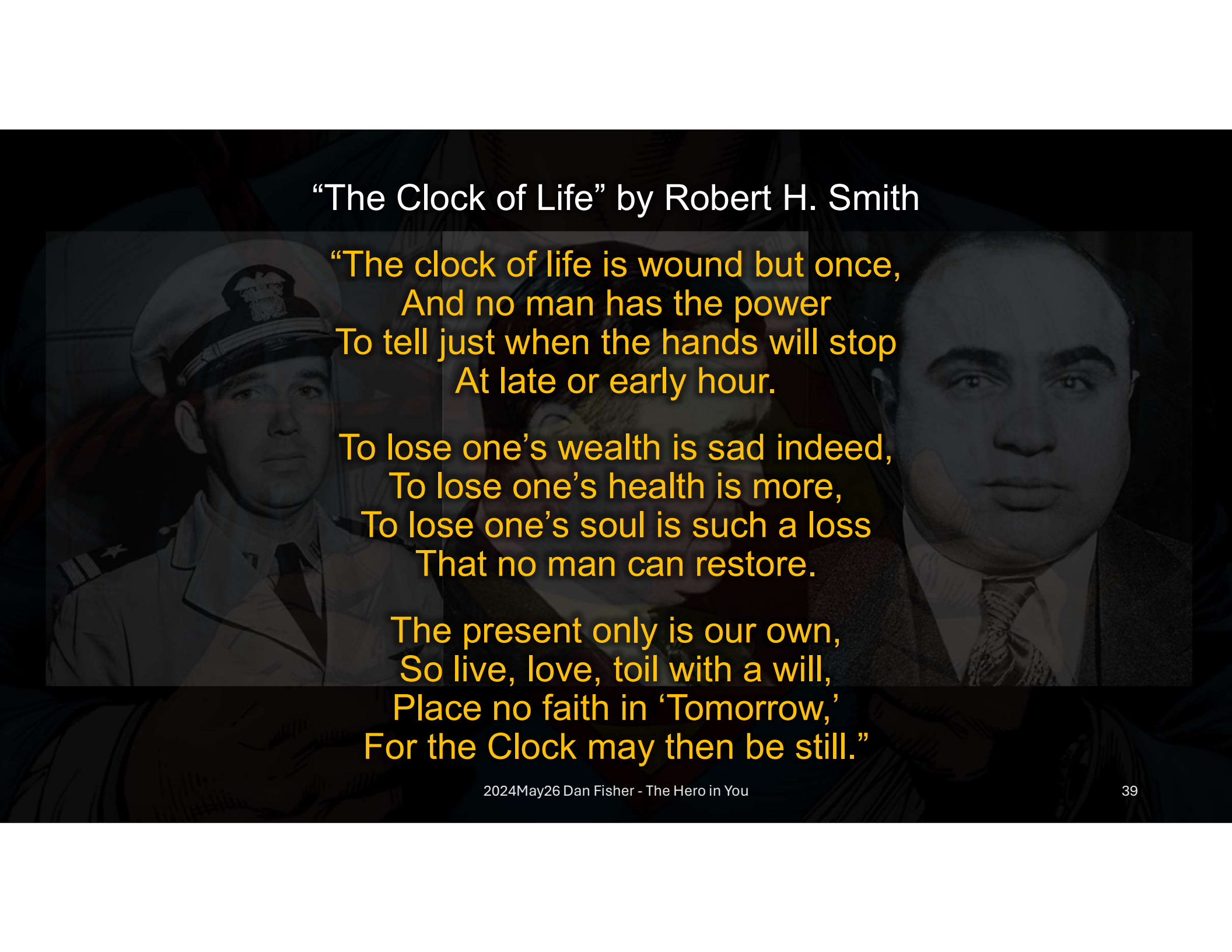
1 Cor 1:29 that no flesh should glory in His presence



The Battle of Oriskany, NY, August 6, 1777

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“The Clock of Life” by Robert H. Smith

“The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop
At late or early hour.

To lose one’s wealth is sad indeed,
To lose one’s health is more,
To lose one’s soul is such a loss
That no man can restore.

The present only is our own,
So live, love, toil with a will,
Place no faith in ‘Tomorrow,’
For the Clock may then be still.”



Jn 3:16 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

1 Jn 3:16 By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.