

PEOPLE TOO GOOD FOR THIS WORLD

SCRIPTURE:

HEBREWS 11:32-40 (NOTE 38)

INTRODUCTION

RARELY DOES THE SCRIPTURE HEAP ACCOLADES UPON ANYONE; THEREFORE, THE STATEMENT COMMENDING THE PEOPLE IN THE TEXT SHOULD CAUSE US TO CONSIDER THESE UNNAMED HEROES OF THE FAITH, AND PROFIT BY THEIR LIVES AND EXAMPLES.

HERE ARE SOME HEROES WE CAN IDENTIFY WITH FOR THEIR TESTIMONIES ARE REMARKABLY SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.

I. THE ONES WHO TRIUMPHED THROUGH FAITH

AND WHAT MORE SHALL I SAY: I DO NOT HAVE TIME TO TELL ABOUT GIDEON, BARAK, SAMSON, JEPHTHAH, DAVID, SAMUEL, AND THE PROPHETS, WHO THROUGH FAITH CONQUERED KINGDOMS, ADMINISTERED JUSTICE, AND GAINED WHAT WAS PROMISED; WHO SHUT THE MOUTHS OF LIONS, QUENCHED THE FURY OF THE FLAMES, AND ESCAPED THE EDGE OF THE SWORD; WHOSE WEAKNESS WAS TURNED TO STRENGTH; WHO BECAME POWERFUL IN BATTLE AND ROUTED FOREIGN ARMIES. WOMEN RECEIVED BACK THEIR DEAD, RAISED TO LIFE AGAIN.

HEBREWS 11:32-35A NIV

A. DANIEL

B. SHADRACH, MESHECH, AND ABED-NEGO

II. THE ONES WHO SUFFERED IN FAITH

THEY WENT ABOUT IN SHEEPSKINS AND GOATSKINS, DESTITUTE, PERSECUTED, AND MISTREATED -- THE WORLD WAS NOT WORTHY OF THEM. THEY WANDERED IN DESERTS AND MOUNTAINS, AND IN CAVES AND HOLES IN THE GROUND.

HEBREWS 11:37B-38

A. THEY WERE HATED AND LOATHED BY THE WORLD

1. JEREMIAH

2. MICAIAH

AND THE KING OF ISRAEL SAID UNTO JEHOSHAPHAT, THERE IS YET ONE MAN, MICAIAH, THE SON OF IMLAH, BY WHOM WE MAY ENQUIRE OF THE LORD: BUT I HATE HIM; FOR HE DOTH NOT PROPHECY GOOD CONCERNING ME BUT EVIL.

1 KINGS 22:8 KJV

B. THEY WERE NOT SUCCESSFUL

C. THEY DID NOT PROSPER

III. THE ONES WHO WERE CASUALTIES OF FAITH

OTHERS WERE TORTURED, AND REFUSED TO BE RELEASED, SO THAT THEY MIGHT GAIN A BETTER RESURRECTION. SOME FACED JEERS AND FLOGGING, WHILE STILL OTHERS WERE CHAINED AND PUT IN PRISON. THEY WERE STONED; THEY WERE SAWED IN TWO; THEY WERE PUT TO DEATH BY THE SWORD.

HEBREWS 11:35B-37A NIV

A. SAMSON

B. ISAIAH

III. THE ONES WHO WERE CASUALTIES OF FAITH

C. THE APOSTLES

FOR I AM NOW READY TO BE OFFERED, AND THE TIME OF MY DEPARTURE IS AT HAND.

I HAVE FOUGHT A GOOD FIGHT, I HAVE FINISHED MY COURSE, I HAVE KEPT THE FAITH:

HENCEFORTH THERE IS LAID UP FOR ME A CROWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, WHICH THE LORD, THE RIGHTEOUS JUDGE, SHALL GIVE ME AT THAT DAY....

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8A KJV

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| 1. PETER | CRUCIFIED UPSIDE DOWN |
| 2. ANDREW | CRUCIFIED ON A "X" SHAPED CROSS |
| 3. JAMES | BEHEADED |
| 4. JOHN | BOILED IN OIL AND SURVIVED |
| 5. JUDE | MARTYRED IN PERSIA |
| 6. PHILLIP | MARTYRED IN HIERAPOLIS |
| 7. BARTHOLOMEW | FLAYED TO DEATH |
| 8. MATTHEW | MARTYRED |
| 9. THOMAS | SHOT BY ARROWS AT PRAYER |
| 10. SIMON ZELOTES | CRUCIFIED |
| 11. JAMES THE LESS | CRUCIFIED OR THROWN FROM A PINNACLE |
| 12. PAUL | BEHEADED |

IV. THE COMMENDATION FOR ALL

THE WORLD WAS NOT WORTHY OF THEM. ...THESE WERE ALL COMMENDED FOR THEIR FAITH, YET NONE OF THEM RECEIVED WHAT HAD BEEN PROMISED. GOD HAD PLANNED SOMETHING BETTER FOR US SO THAT ONLY TOGETHER WITH US WOULD THEY BE MADE PERFECT.

HEBREWS 11:38A, 39-40 NIV

- A. THE ONES WHO APPARENTLY WERE UNSUCCESSFUL WERE NOT SECOND BEST
- B. EACH GROUP RECEIVED THE SAME COMMENDATION

CONCLUSION

FOR WE HAVE THIS TREASURE IN EARTHEN VESSELS, THAT THE EXCELLENCY OF THE POWER MAY BE OF GOD AND NOT OF US.

WE ARE TROUBLED ON EVERY SIDE, YET NOT DISTRESSED; WE ARE PERPLEXED, BUT NOT IN DESPAIR.

PERSECUTED, BUT NOT FORSAKEN, CAST DOWN, BUT NOT DESTROYED.

ALWAYS BEARING ABOUT IN THE BODY THE DYING OF THE LORD JESUS, THAT THE LIFE ALSO OF JESUS MIGHT BE MADE MANIFEST IN OUR BODY.

FOR WE WHICH LIVE ARE ALWAYS DELIVERED UNTO DEATH FOR JESUS' SAKE, THAT THE LIFE OF JESUS MIGHT BE MADE MANIFEST IN OUR MORTAL FLESH.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7-11 KJV

FROM HENCEFORTH LET NO MAN TROUBLE ME: FOR I BEAR IN MY BODY THE MARKS OF THE LORD JESUS.

GALATIANS 6:17 KJV

- A. FOR SOME, SUCCESS IS THE SIGN OF FAITH
- B. FOR OTHERS, BATTLE SCARS (GR: STIGMATA) ARE THE SIGN OF FAITH

ISAIAH 57:15

JOB 2:23-24