

For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me. (John 6:38)

Living in the time of super heroes

- One of the latest movies released - Justice League
- main characters are the heroes - Batman, wonder woman, Aqua man, flash, v Cyborg man
- single hero is the past : Superman, Batman, Spiderman, Wonder woman - 70's, 80'
- Now not a single hero but many heroes in the same movie - Batman, Wonder woman, Aqua man, Flash, Cyborg man
- Are they the models we are following?

There has been so many heroes, heroine in history

- One of them is a man born in a merger, his name is Jesus
- he was a loser, failure
- never fought back with violence against violence : was not powerful enough?
- he was a great teacher, disciple with few thousands people used to follow him
- declared himself as Son of God, King of the Jews - Blaspheming
- was rejected and executed by his own people
- All his disciples denied him, ran away from him
- everything that he has built up was utterly destroyed on the day he was crucified

Isaiah 53:30 6

He was despised and rejected by men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted.

But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned—every one—to his own way; and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

His disciples started to follow his model

- was not welcomed, but rejected by their own people
- harshly abused physically, emotionally - put in jail, were threatened
- excommunicated from their own people group
- all of them except for Apostle John ended up their lives like their teacher, Jesus - killed

Another great failure as Jesus' disciple - Paul

- could not understand Jesus, his followers at first
- but became of the followers
- had constant threats from his own people
- become unsuccessful teacher like his teacher Jesus - Book of Corinthians
- didn't get much fame, money like other travelling teachers in the first century
- travelled 10,282 miles, spent 1,731 Denarii = £ 70,000
- He traveled across the whole Roman Empire at his own expenses

Are they servants of Christ? I am a better one—I am talking like a madman—with far greater labors, far more imprisonments, with countless beatings, and often near death. Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one. Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was

stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I was adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brothers; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure on me of my anxiety for all the churches.(2Corinthians 11:23-28)

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”(2Cor12:9)

Rejected Heroes - Jesus and disciples

- they all died without seeing the great or positive results of their ministries in their life time
- however they DID change the world
- Started in Roman Empire : became the state religion in AD 313 by Constantin the Great

The influence reached to China in by AD 7th Century

- 景教 : Religion of Light - Nestorian Christianity from Syria
- Tang Dynasty - 635 Christianity was allowed for Chinese people
- became very popular for a while

Who is real hero? - People with super power, miracles?

- Heroes are not who only performs extra ordinary powers with great miracles
 - Jesus' miracles drew the attention from people but people ran away even though they witnessed the miracles, supernatural powers
 - his disciples did great miracles as well
- It was his influence to his disciples through obedience
 - he influenced 12 disciples, 12 disciples influenced others in their life time
- Christians - the followers of Jesus
 - we can influence people around
 - the result of the influence might not be so visible in our life time
 - however our obedience will bring changes

Christmas is all about this hero, Jesus

In this season of Christmas,

- 1. shall we intentionally think and share about this hero who came to rescue to whole world?**
- 2. shall we remind ourselves that we are the heroes as well if we are following Jesus and his ways not with the miracles but with the love and sacrifice?**