

Counting Like A Hero Maker

The scoreboard does not lie.

Now, it may not tell the whole story, but it has the final word.

I want to show you an amazing ending to a basketball game where a guy shoots a buzzer beater.

Hugo High School was playing Millwood High School in the Class 3A state basketball playoffs. Hugo was leading Millwood High 37-36 with fewer than four seconds on the clock.

Hugo had the ball, and all they had to do was hold it for four seconds and let the clock expire and they would advance in the tournament.

Hugo's star forward caught the inbounds pass, but instead of holding it, he took a shot—and made it.

See for yourself.

Hugo is in blue and Millwood is in white uniforms.

(Show video 1 – 21 seconds)

What is the score on your scoreboard?

In sports, and in other areas of life, we define success by the numbers.

You're a popular person if you get enough likes. You're a success in life if you have enough dollars in the bank. You're a successful business if you have enough sales. And, you're a successful church, if you have lots of "nickels and noses."

Is that really the best way to measure success as Christians and as a church?

I don't think so.

We've been talking the last few weeks about how we need to view success as Heroes Who are Making Heroes

I want to ask you to think about your life, in regards to being a hero maker, and I want you to consider a new scoreboard. We need to measure our success as followers of Jesus by how many heroes we raise up.

Let's look again at the 5 Essentials Practices of a Hero Maker: Multiplication Thinking, Permission Giving, Disciple Multiplying, Gift Activating, and Kingdom Building

Today we're talking about Kingdom Building, which may not be what you initially think.

The practice of kingdom building is a shift from counting the people who show up at my thing to counting those who go out and do God's thing. Kingdom building requires that we reject old ways of measuring success and use a new scoreboard. We need to count like hero makers.

Let's review our theme verses for this series.

(Anyone memorized it and willing to quote it?)

Matthew 28:18-20 And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

According to this passage, Jesus defines success by disciples making disciples or heroes who make heroes.

Counting like a hero maker requires a shift from counting the successes in my own life to counting the success we help in the lives of others.

As we've already established in this series, Paul (formerly Saul) was a hero maker who made countless heroes.

In a special moment, at the end of the book of Acts we are given a glimpse of the scoreboard of Paul's life. The last verses in Acts tell us how Paul spent his final months in Rome under house arrest. In Acts 28:23-24

23 When they had appointed a day for him, they came to him at his lodging in greater numbers. From morning till evening he expounded to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the Law of Moses and from the Prophets. 24 And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

The last two verses in Acts say this:

30 He lived there two whole years at his own expense, and welcomed all who came to him, 31 proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

People were coming to Paul and he was making a lot of disciples...heroes... This is how he measured his success.

First, **He was Invested** (he lived with them). He lived with them in Rome for two years at his own expense and he invested countless hours with everyone who came to visit him.

Now granted, He was in Roman custody, under house arrest. But Paul could have spent that time doing many other things. He didn't have to spend it investing in people, but that's what he did.

Secondly, **He was Inviting.**

He... welcomed all who came to him.

He used to go from house to house arresting Christians, now Jews and Gentiles were invited to his house to hear the good news of Jesus and become Christians.

Only God could do something like that.

He was Involved (he taught them.)

He didn't just tolerate them; he was deeply involved in making them disciples and heroes.

From morning til evening he boldly taught the word of God and the good news of Jesus.

What was the result of Paul's work?

Let's look at the scoreboard from about 4 years before the end of Paul's "game":

Acts 28:24 And some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.

People were coming to Paul it says, "in greater numbers," but notice the attention isn't focused on that scoreboard. Paul isn't busy taking attendance at his gatherings. He doesn't even focus on how many he converted. It simply tells us that *some were convinced by what he said, but others disbelieved.*

Not everyone is going to give their lives to Christ. Not even the Apostle Paul was 100% successful in winning people to Jesus. So, we must not give up in our work of hero making.

The scoreboard doesn't lie.

Now, it doesn't tell the whole story... Paul—through his church plants and letters—led countless people to Christ and raised up multitudes of heroes... but it does have the final word.

Paul, through his faithful work as a hero maker, won!

I want us to win, too, so I want to measure our success by the same three standards Paul lived.

Btw...these are the 3 criteria of what it means to be a part of the body of Christ. This is what it means to be a church member:

You are invested. Being a part of Son-Rise is more than just showing up for Sunday services, it also means that we are invested relationally, financially, physically, and spiritually.

Relationally – We are family. We are brothers and sisters in Christ. Our connection to one another needs to be more than a handshake on Sunday morning. Paul writes in Romans 12:5, "so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Financially—Are you supporting the ministry of Son-Rise with your tithes and offerings? Financially supporting the church is an investment. Jesus tells us that where our treasure is our hearts will be also. Our hearts follow our treasure. Whether our treasure is in Fishing tackle, handbags, or the kingdom of God, that's what our heart will be invested in.

Physically—Are you a part of the work we are doing here? Serving? Showing up at key events?

Spiritually—Are you praying for one another? Praying for the leadership of this church? Praying for me?

You are inviting. This is our home. The doors are open to all who come, but we need to be inviting. We need to be welcoming. We need to invite friends and neighbors and coworkers to come. When people do come, we need to be welcoming.

If you are a part of Son-Rise, we want you to be inviting people to join us.

Now, we're not talking about people who are already Christians who go to another church. We aren't interested in "stealing sheep." There are already too many Christians who flit about from church to church like a butterfly going from flower to flower and never really investing in that church, and making home, and being a part of a family, and growing together through thick and through thin.

That being said, we do want to offer really good grass for the sheep (not that kind of grass!!!!), We want sheep to be well fed.

Who can you invite to church in your life right now?

You are involved. If you are a part of Son-Rise Christian Church, it means that you are involved in our ministry.

We do not need members who are only consumers. We need to be spiritual sponges that soak it in and wring it out, so we can soak it in again. A sponge that only soaks in water and is never wrung out becomes stagnant and nasty.

Or to use another analogy, if all you do is show up and consume, you risk becoming spiritually constipated!

Well, if all you do is come and consume and you are not involved, consider this sermon your spiritual suppository!

We need you to get involved. Involved in serving in one of our ministries. Involved in connecting with others in one of our small groups. Involved in helping us make heroes, who make heroes, who make heroes.

We are going to go to Heaven.

And, we are going to take as many people with us as possible. We need to make as many heroes as possible.

And, that all starts with just making a hero of one person.

The movie, Hacksaw Ridge was based on the true story of Pfc. Desmond T. Doss, who won the Congressional Medal of Honor despite refusing to bear arms during WWII on religious grounds.

Doss was drafted and ostracized by fellow soldiers for his pacifist stance but went on to earn respect and adoration for his bravery, selflessness and compassion after he risked his life -- without firing a shot -- to save 75 men in the Battle of Okinawa.

During that battle, as he was risking his life to save other men, he prayed a prayer.

(Show Video 2 – Volume will need to be up. It is a quiet video)

From what we know about the Apostle Paul, this is his life's prayer, too.

"Please Lord, help me get one more. Help me get one more."

Will you join me in being a hero, who makes heroes, who makes heroes, so we can get one more for Jesus?

Will you join me in adding to the only scoreboard that really matters?