

## **Message:** When Heroes Fail

**Sermon Text:** Various

Good morning, church family. Whether you're here as a child, a teen, a parent, or somewhere in between, we all have someone we've looked up to—someone we've admired. For some, it's a dad or mom who was always strong in their faith. For others, a grandparent, a teacher, or a pastor who shaped your life. Maybe for the younger ones, it's an athlete, a musician, or a YouTuber you look up to. And let's be honest, even adults admire celebrity heroes—leaders, authors, influencers. Here are a few of mine (photo collage in slides). But what happens when those people fall? What happens when that spiritual leader lets you down? Or, when your Christian hero fails publicly? It's painful. It shakes us. And we are tempted to ask: *"If they fell... what hope do I have?"* **Today, we turn to Scripture to face a hard but hopeful truth: Even the best human heroes fall—but there is one Hero who never does. So, here's our...**

**BIG IDEA: Even the greatest human heroes fall. Only Christ is perfect.**

I'll break this down into four main points. **Point 1: Even the Greatest Heroes Fall:** Let's start with the obvious truth that the Bible doesn't hide: everyone sins. Romans 3:23 – *"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."* The Bible is full of heroes—but not one of them, apart from Jesus, was perfect. Let's walk through a few:

- Noah obeyed God, built the ark, and saved humanity—but afterward, he got drunk and brought shame to his family (Genesis 9:20–21).
- Moses, the deliverer of Israel, lost his temper, struck the rock, and disobeyed God—he was kept from the Promised Land (Numbers 20:10–12).
- David, the king after God's own heart, committed adultery and arranged a man's death to cover it up (2 Samuel 11).
- Peter, who walked with Jesus, swore he'd never leave Him—but denied Him three times (Luke 22:61–62).

These were biblical giants, and they all fell. But let's bring it closer.

- Some of us grew up admiring a Christian parent—and maybe they walked away from the Lord.
- Some of us were led by a pastor or mentor—and they sinned in ways that broke trust.
- Some of us look up to influencers or celebrities (musicians, politicians, actors etc.) who say they follow Christ—then act in ways that are anything but Christian.

***Falling heroes hurt us. But Scripture helps us understand why it happens—and what to do next.***

**Point 2: God Uses the Broken:** God doesn't throw people away when they fall. He works through weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9 says, *"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.'"*

When our heroes fall, it reminds us:

- They were never the Savior—only a reflection of Him.
- God's not surprised by their sin—or ours.
- Failure isn't final in God's hands.

*Let's go back to our biblical heroes:*

- Noah is still called "a preacher of righteousness" (2 Peter 2:5).
- Moses appears alongside Jesus at the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:3).
- David's Psalms still minister to broken hearts—and he's part of the line of Christ.
- Peter was restored by Jesus and preached at Pentecost. Thousands came to faith through him (John 21:15–19).

They weren't disqualified by their failures—but they did humble them. ***God doesn't use perfect people—He uses redeemed people.***

### ***Let's recap:***

**Point 1:** Even the Greatest Heroes Fall

**Point 2:** God Uses the Broken

**Point 3: Only One Hero Never Falls:** Hebrews 4:15 (NLT) – “This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.”

Jesus is the only hero who never failed.

- He was tempted — but never gave in.
- He was betrayed—but never retaliated.
- He was abused—but obeyed to the death.

Unlike every earthly hero—family, leader, celebrity—Jesus didn’t fall. ***He’s the Hero our hearts are really looking for.***

**Point 4: When You Fall, You Can Rise Again:** Maybe this morning, the fallen hero isn’t someone else, it’s you. Maybe you’re the parent who failed your kids. Maybe you’re the leader who’s ashamed of what happened. Maybe you’ve messed up big time—and you wonder if there’s any way back. Proverbs 24:16 – “*For the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in time of calamity.*” The righteous aren’t perfect—they’re the ones who keep getting back up. Not in their own strength, but in Christ’s. Psalm 51:17 – “*The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.*” ***God welcomes the brokenhearted. There’s grace for those who repent.***

### **Conclusion: Lift Your Eyes**

So, church family—young and old:

- When your favorite Christian influencer messes up, don’t lose your faith—they weren’t the foundation.

- When a mentor fails, mourn—but remember your hope is in Jesus, not in men.
- When a parent or spouse disappoints you, extend grace—they need Christ too.
- And when you fall, don't stay down—run to Jesus.

Hebrews 12:2 says, *“Looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith...”* ***He never fails. He never falls. He never turns away the broken.*** And remember, wherever you are on your journey of trusting Christ, you need not work through anything alone. Reach out and let us help!

Questions for Reflection:

1. Who have I placed on a pedestal that only Jesus belongs?
2. Have I let someone's failure sour my relationship with Christ, and if so, who and why?
3. Calling back to Bill's message from a few weeks ago, what is something you are asking of your heroes that only Jesus can provide?

**Let's take a moment in silence to ask the Lord:** *“God, is there someone I need to forgive, release, or stop idolizing? Is there brokenness in me You want to redeem?”*

**Closing Prayer:** Heavenly Father, Thank You for speaking to us through Your Word today. Thank You for reminding us that no human hero is perfect—but that You work even through our failures to accomplish Your perfect will. Lord, we confess that we've often placed our trust in people instead of in You. We've been discouraged when leaders, family members, and role models have fallen. And some of us are carrying the weight of our own failures too. But today, we lift our eyes to Jesus—the only One who never failed. Help us to trust Him more deeply, follow Him more faithfully, and reflect His grace to others. Heal the wounds left by fallen heroes, and strengthen our hearts to rise again in Your mercy. Make us a

church that walks in truth, humility, and hope—always pointing to Christ, our unfailing Savior. In His mighty name we pray, Amen.

**Sunday to Monday Connection:**

- **Question:** See questions in the lesson above and the takeaways below.
- **Next Step:** Discuss questions in the lesson above and the takeaways below.
- **Note:** If you are not a Christ follower and would like to investigate further what all this might mean for you, please come talk with any of our leaders, or the person who brought you.

**Takeaways to discuss with your people** (in addition to the underlined questions above!):

1. A hero is a person we admire or idealize for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. Have you ever had any heroes in your life? If so, who were they and why were they a hero to you?

**Quotes related to this passage:**

**Considerations for discussion leaders:**

1. Keep circling back to the big idea and main points of the passage to stay on track.
2. Keep the group small for deeper sharing. Single underlined sentences are for discussion, while key points are double underlined.
3. Keep the discussion around 30 mins. Once you hit the “sweet spot”, spend your time there.
4. Keep these simple questions in your back pocket: What is God teaching you? What are you going to do about it? How will it help you love & serve others?

**Other Articles/Songs/Videos:** Please ask us for help obtaining other resources.

**Bibliography** (Note: Our use of these materials does not imply full agreement with them)

- The Holy Bible: English Standard Version (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016)
- Texts used or referenced: Romans 3:23, Genesis 9:20–21. Numbers 20:10–12, 2 Samuel 11, Luke 22:61–62, 2 Corinthians 12:9, 2 Peter 2:5, Matthew 17:3, John 21:15–19, Hebrews 4:15, Proverbs 24:16, Psalm 51:17, Hebrews 12:2