

“A hero for our time”

It's a very special weekend as we commemorate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day on May 8th.

We think of those stepping forward in the cause of freedom and safety. We honour the memory of those who made the difference. We remember that VE Day was a day of huge celebration brought about because of the sacrifice and service of so many.

We are in a very different situation but we do well today to think of the heroes right now as well – the people who've been there for us in difficult times. Those risking their lives, the NHS, carers, delivery personnel, workers across food stores or public transport, and others serving in so many ways. Helping us to see this through. Heroes in our nation and of course across the world who want to make a difference – so we will one day celebrate that this battle is over.

We remember the heroes and we give thanks. Heroes at their best are a little picture of the great little life changing Hero- someone that we are told about in Matthew's Gospel chapter 12:18-21:

*“Here is my servant whom I have chosen,
the one I love, in whom I delight;
I will put my Spirit on him, and he will proclaim justice to the nations.*

¹⁹ *He will not quarrel or cry out;
no one will hear his voice in the streets.*

²⁰ *A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,
till he has brought justice through to victory.*

²¹ *In his name the nations will put their hope.”*

This scripture talks about the arrival of someone loved and sent by God the Father, and anointed by God the Holy Spirit. Someone that had been promised for so long and was talked about centuries earlier in an Old Testament Bible book, Isaiah chapter 42. That person is Jesus Christ. The One who came to give his life for us to bring us life.

But when Jesus came, He came to serve us - not to shout false promises or just simply to flatter us or make us feel better. He came with a gentle ministry, meekly, as a servant to change things for the better.

Jesus doesn't laugh at our weakness and our need. He strengthens us and restores us.

²⁰ *A bruised reed he will not break,
and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out,*

And he turns the world upside down and promises to bring worldwide hope:

till he has brought justice through to victory.
²¹ *In his name the nations will put their hope.”*

Empires come and go, and problems come and go but Jesus Christ remains.

We need rescuing from this terrible disease - and we are so glad of the heroes who help today. People who step up in life - to make a difference and we think of those who step up to life's difficulties in any number of ways.

We can feel weak at this time. Jesus is the faithful and strong leader who will achieve what He wants to and he will not be thwarted and dethroned.

In that strength, he is gentle and personal. He always has time for the individual. He always has time for you. It's always the personal touch. The reach is Worldwide but the feel is very personal.

Jesus will not break you. You may feel like you are a candle flickering badly. Jesus restores your light. He carries us.

Jesus cares about every person in the world. The gentle, effective, life changing, world transforming, freedom bringing and life-giving Jesus Christ:

"In his name the nations will put their hope"

Amen