

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
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4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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DAY BY DAY ROMANS 14:5-6

There are days and moments when ordinary people rise to an extraordinary occasion. I am reminded of the hero's that I have met in life. Two men named Jim who taught my Sunday school class and youth group when I was growing up and taught me about Christ and demonstrated what it meant to be a man of God. I think of the numerous women who taught Sunday School and Bible School, such as Joyce, Darlene, Maxine who through their commitment and faithfulness drew me closer to Christ.



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DAY BY DAY ROMANS 14:5-6

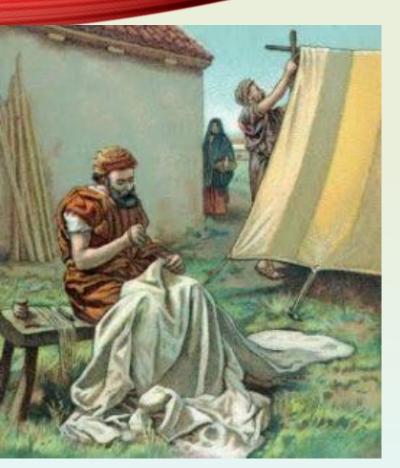
All these people had jobs and responsibilities they considered at times mundane, perhaps even the efforts expended in Christian service. But the impact on my life was profound. We have superheroes all around us, disguised as ordinary people doing the will of God and living out the gospel.

These days we need heroes. Not super men, nor caped and cowled crusaders, but ordinary people who have been with Jesus and everyone around them knows it.

16 Therefore do not let your good be spoken of as evil; 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. 18 For he who serves Christ in these things is acceptable to God and approved by men.

Paul like most young Jewish men had learned a trade growing up even though he had been a scion from a wealthy family. He knew tentmaking. Perhaps it had been a trade his father or grandfather had learned in the Roman army. The Roman army had a prodigious need for tents. In Corinth this middle aged man would once again pick up the needle and thread and return to a trade he had known as a lad before he had become a scholar, a Pharisee and an apostle. It seems a step backward, but it was really a giant leap forward.

Supermen are not known by their titles but by their work.



Sunday School illustration: Paul tentmaking with Aquila and Pricilla

Series: Day By Day – Romans 14:5-6

ACTS 4:13-20

13 Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marveled. And they realized that they had been with Jesus. 14 And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. 15 But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, 16 saying, "What shall we do to these men? For, indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it. 17 But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name."

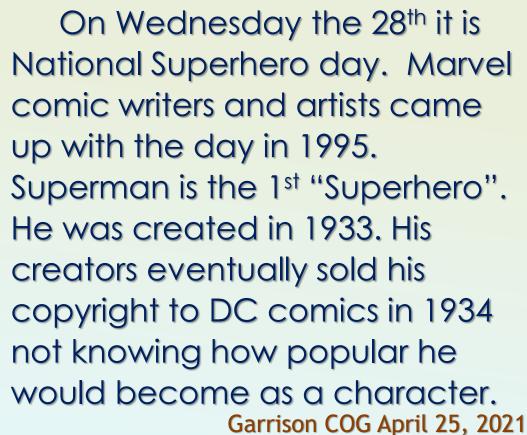
ACTS 4:13-20

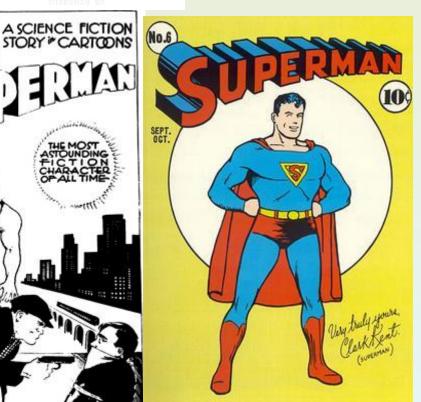
18 And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. 20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."



Superman created 1933: Joe Schuster, original artist, [below] Jerry Siegel, creator

Below – Original 1933 cover DC Comics. Above, 1934 DC Comics concept page. 1940 Superman cover drawn by Schuster





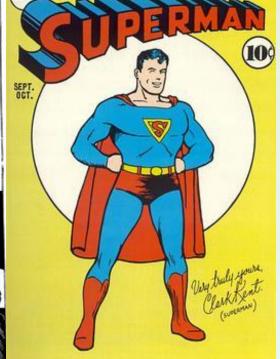
Series: Day By Day - Romans 14:5-6



Superman created 1933: Joe Schuster, original artist, [below] Jerry Siegel, creator

Below – Original 1933 cover DC Comics. Above, 1934 DC Comics concept page. 1940 Superman cover drawn by Schuster

We all would like to be someone with superhero status. But in reality we struggle with being who we are. Paul was one of the few people who went from a Bruce Wayne status to powerful intellectual, Sanhedrin enforcer to later Apostle. He had likely witnessed the events of Acts 4 for himself.





Series: Day By Day - Romans 14:5-6

ACTS 18:1-3

- 1 After these things Paul departed from Athens and went to Corinth.
- 2 And he found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla (because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to depart from Rome); and he came to them.
- 3 So, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and worked; for by occupation they were tentmakers.



Sunday School Illustration: Peter and John before the Sanhedrin

In Acts 3 Peter and John have healed a man who was born lame and had been lame for 40 years. When they entered the temple the lame man's joy drew a crowd. Peter began to preach about Jesus Christ's power to heal and the need for repentance by the Jewish people. They were arrested by the Sanhedrin and held overnight for trial. At their trial the lame man stood with them testifying to the power of Jesus Christ to heal.

No one would expect this from ordinary fishermen. Even less their ability to hold their own in matters of law, philosophy and theology.

ACTS 3:13-20

11 Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. 12 So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people: "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk?



April 25 is National Hug a
Plumber Day often called just
"National Plumber Day" It was
originally celebrated in England
but became popular in the
USA. It origins are unknown.

Plumbing transformed the world. Ancient cities began to move waste out of the cities with underground piping and sewers in ancient Babylon. Many Roman homes had water service in lead pipes into their homes. But it was not until the late 1500s that a flushing toilet was invented. However, it was awkward and expensive to own and operate. In the late 1700s the trap toilet was invented but it was inefficient and expensive. Indoor plumbing would need to wait until the late 1800s to become feasible for regular home installation. Disease plagued cities up until the early 1900s due to contamination by sewage.

Series: Day By Day – Romans 14:5-6

PSALM 8:4-6

- 4 What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him?
- 5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor.
- 6 You have made him to have dominion over the works of Your hands; You have put all *things* under his feet,



Thomas
Crapper,
improved the
toilet by
inventing the
floating ball
valve and
improving the
"s" trap by
adding a "u"
bend to it.

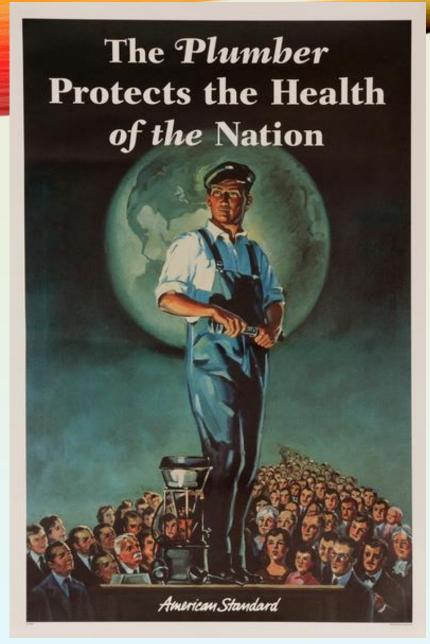
THE HERO IN THE COMMON MAN ACTS 4:13-20

Few men can be viewed as a superhero but Thomas Crapper [1836-1910] can, his father was a sailor. At a young age he apprenticed under his brother as a plumber a n emerging labor field. In 1861 he opened his own plumbing business. He held 8 patens for improving various plumbing devices.

His influence on British society deeply impacted local sanitation in cities the world over. Prince Albert had died in 1864 from cholera a disease that infects water supplies due to poor sanitation systems.

This may be why Queen Victoria and the British nobility took such a keen interest in Thomas Crappers products.

Series: Day By Day – Romans 14:5-6



Eventually, Crapper became the royal plumber and supplier of plumbing hardware. He so popularized indoor plumbing that it began to become an ordinary part of homes.

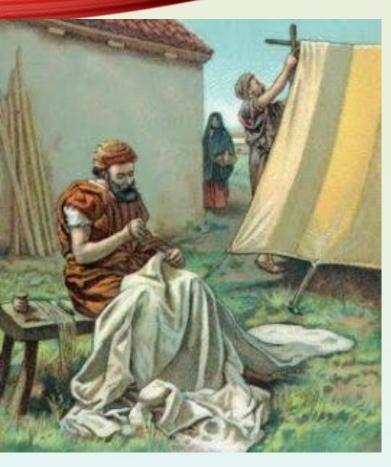
His improvement of the indoor toilet so revolutionized England that the toilet became known as a "crapper". The term returned to the USA with soldiers in 1918 who were deeply impressed and amused by the growing use of indoor plumbing in Britain. The term "crap", however, is an old Dutch term for waste and its relation to Crapper is only coincidental.

1 CORINTHIANS 4:9-13

- 9 For I think that God has displayed us, the apostles, last, as men condemned to death; for we have been made a spectacle to the world, both to angels and to men.
- 10 We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored!
- 11 To the present hour we both hunger and thirst, and we are poorly clothed, and beaten, and homeless.
- 12 And we labor, working with our own hands. Being reviled, we bless; being persecuted, we endure;
- 13 being defamed, we entreat. We have been made as the filth of the world, the offscouring of all things until now.

It is strange that it is when Paul begins working for Aquila and Pricilla that his ministry to the Gentiles really takes off. It is when he really becomes the Apostle to the Gentiles that God had called him to be.

We often think that super human power or intelligence or good connections will accomplish what God want in our lives. Paul came to recognize that none of that made him a "super apostle". It was instead meeting the needs of people where they were at that really transformed his message. Much like the men and women who guided my growth in the faith. It was their everyday life lived out as a follower of Christ that makes them superheros to me.



Sunday School illustration: Paul tentmaking with Aquila and Pricilla

Series: Day By Day – Romans 14:5-6

ACTS 19:10-12

- 10 And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.
- 11 Now God worked unusual miracles by the hands of Paul, 12 so that even handkerchiefs or aprons were brought from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out of them.





When we have been with Jesus people will notice.