

Holy Spirit, Batman! Pt 1 - Peter Parker or Spiderman?

2/4/07 - CCFG

- I. Introduce series purpose and groundwork for Acts
- II. Super hero setup.
 - A. In order to get a better grip on who the HS is and what role He he is supposed to play in our lives, we need to have a basic understanding of who we are apart from Jesus and who we are in Jesus. What does that even mean?
 - B. I don't know how God speaks to you but lately God has been speaking to me on the particular subject through movies. Specifically movies about super heros. Two movies in particular have been the source of "Aha!" moments. (Movie disclaimer)
 - i. Superman Returns (logo/picture on screen)
 - a) Not from this world. Sent here as a child because home planet, Krypton, was going to be destroyed.
 - b) Ordinary person on his own planet. Exposure to our sun gives him his super powers. His nature has been changed. It's different from that of the world's.
 - c) When he is exposed to kryptonite, radioactive remnants, of his home world, it hurts him. It can kill him.
 - d) In latest movie he experiences long-term exposure to kryptonite and almost dies. He had to recharge in the light of the sun.
 2. Spiderman (both of them) (logo/picture on screen)
 - a) Born a normal human, Peter Parker. Gets bitten by a radioactive mutated spider. This alters his DNA and gives him special spider-like abilities. His nature was changed.
 - b) Quickly realizes that spider powers mess things up as Peter Parker so he creates Spiderman. He fights crime, helps people, he's the amazing Spiderman.
 - c) The problem is that he is in love. No one can know who he really is let alone the girl he loves. If people find out who he is he won't be able to do anything.
 - d) He struggles with who he is really. He can't be both Spidey and Peter. When he tries he fails. "Who am I?"
 - e) Once he totally commits to being Spiderman he is stronger than ever.
 - f) The Incredibles is another one that illustrates these same struggles well.
 - C. What does any of this have to do with us? As a Christian, a disciple, a follower of Jesus Christ, we face the same struggles with our new nature and the choices we make as to which life we are going to live.
- III. The Reality - We have a new nature in Jesus
 - A. John 3:3 - Gospel summary.
 - B. 1 Peter 1:3-4 Born again to what? A living hope here on earth, an inheritance of eternal life in Heaven.
 - C. Romans 6:1-4+ We have died and risen again through Jesus
 - D. Gal. 2:20 We no longer live, we are not what we were before

- E. 2 Cor. 5:17 A new species. All the old stuff is dead, it has no power.
 - F. Like Superman and Spiderman, we have a new nature, one that is different from the world around us. One that enables us to live a radically different life, regardless of our circumstances.
- IV. The Problem - Our new nature conflicts with the nature of this world
- A. Gal. 5:16-18 The flesh and Spirit are opposed to each other
 - B. 1 John 2:15-17 Loving things in this world cuts us off from being able to do God's will.
 - C. 1 Cor. 2:13-15 The church in Corinth was trying to love both the world and the Lord. This kept them from living out their new nature, from living in the power of the HS.
 - D. Romans 7:15-24 We want to but we can't. What's the hang up? The flesh.
 - E. Just as Superman is weakened by contact with his old world, so we too are weakened by prolonged exposure to this world. Just as Spiderman lost his powers as he focused on his love in his Peter Parker world, so we too are crippled as we love things that are of this world and not from the Lord.
- V. The Solution - To recognize the reality. To make a choice to live out our new nature in the power of the HS and do it. Active, not passive.
- A. Romans 7:25 - 8:2, 9-11 We are no longer in the flesh (Peter), we are in the spirit (Spiderman). God's HS empowers us with this new nature and the ability to live it out.
 - B. Eph. 5:18 Keep on being filled. Not a one time thing.
 - C. Gal. 5:16, 24-25 Walking is an active process.
 - D. When Superman is free of Kryptonite and fully charged by the sun, he can do almost anything. When Spiderman chooses wholeheartedly to be Spiderman, leaving Peter behind, he too can do almost anything. It's a matter of which nature they choose.
- VI. Conclusion
- A. Super heroes like Superman and Spiderman spend a lot of their time disguised in order to blend in with the world. When it's time to be the hero they have to sneak off, change their outfit, and then save the day. While it makes for good drama and comic books, it doesn't make sense. To be anything but what their nature dictates is hypocritical and compromise. They pay the price for it.
 - B. Jesus said in Acts 1:8 that we "shall receive power when the HS comes upon" us. Like Superman, our exposure to the light of the Son gives us supernatural powers beyond what we can do on our own. Power to be witnesses of Jesus. Power to have a transformed life that is itself a witness to the world. Power to overcome the flesh. The power to resist the devil and his temptations. The power to choose not to sin. The power to love one another as Jesus demonstrated. The power to live in the world and not be of it.
 - C. We face the same choices that Peter Parker faces because we also have a new nature. Who are you? Are you Peter trying to live a Spiderman life? Are you Spiderman trying to live a Peter life? Trying to live both simultaneously can't be done. It's one or the other.