

**[Draft 1]**

**Sunday August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

**You're not the Hero of this Story**

*Luke 7:1-17*

There is a sociological/psychological theory that subconsciously we understand the world as a story. If it's true, it's also true that most of us understand ourselves to be the main character of this story. Subconsciously, we see ourselves as a hero, who overcomes difficulty (or a lack of recourses) to achieve great things either at work, at home, in the church or in the world. At the end of the story, we are rewarded with comfort, financial security and good health.

There are couple of problems with seeing ourselves as the hero of our stories. Firstly, it puts a lot of pressure onto us. It makes us think everything is up to us. If the hero fails, the story fails.

Secondly, it makes suffering even worse. Suffering is always painful, but when we think we're the hero of the story, and the end of the story is about our comfort and health and happiness, then suffering throws into question whether the story itself makes sense and if it's author (God) knows what he is doing.

For our own sake, God calls us to the sort of faith the centurion had in our reading for today. The centurion was an important person and had many reasons to think he was the main character in his story. However, he didn't. He recognised that Jesus was the hero, and he was a supporting actor. It is Jesus who is Lord and Jesus who will bring about good and restore the world. When we take on this humility and switch to this perspective, we are free from the burden of playing the 'hero'. We can see that even if we fail, Jesus will succeed, and as long as he succeeds all shall be well and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well.

**Questions for group discussion**

1. What stood out to you in the message?
2. How can you respond?