



## IS JESUS YOUR HERO?

I was an action hero movie buff and still am, much less now and nothing compared as before. I 'worshipped' quite a few action movie heroes in my day. Bruce Lee for one and a few western movie heroes. But they all had one major story line. The crooks or bandits led by their leader who himself was a tough guy would raid a town, steal their money and their women, kill all those in their wake and head off into the sunset. They would threaten to come back if the town would not keep up with their protection money. And in the process, they would beat the hero into a plump in a pool of blood before they ride off leaving him for dead. The townspeople would nurse the hero back to health, most times with a beautiful maiden to boot.

And when the hero is nursed back to health he goes after the crooks for one purpose, revenge! The hero, now strong and fit would hunt them down, one by one and kill them without mercy. I used to applaud the hero and enjoy it. I saw it as justified because they deserved it. Hero's always return with violence and justice will prevail

So, when Jesus cleared the Temple of the money changes and those selling pigeons and lambs with a whip, I thought to myself, Jesus is my action hero.

300 Thomson Road, Singapore 307653  
 T 6255 2133  
 F 6356 9910  
 E secretariatcssr@novenachurch.com  
 W novenachurch.com  
 PETITION & THANKSGIVING LETTERS  
 novenaletterscssr@novenachurch.com

He even cut off the ear of a soldier with a sword when they arrested him. Then they put him on trial judging him unfairly. But heroes always return. Then they scourged him and crucified him. One would think that heroes always return as in the movies. Then he died on the cross. But Jesus did return three days later. But when he returned one could be disappointed. He did not seek revenge to all those who betrayed him, arrested and beat him, tortured him, mocked and crowned him with thorns and finally nailing him to the cross. Instead he forgave them and loved them.

He practiced what he preached, "You have heard that it was said, you shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy, but I say to you, love you enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matthew 5:43-44). A very difficult act to follow indeed. Some critics have said it's impossible to do. Others think that Jesus is a dreamer. Although throughout history people have forgiven their enemies and followed Jesus.

When you forgive, you don't change the past, you change the future.

### Reflection by Glenn de Cruz

# Novena notes



7<sup>th</sup> Sunday Of Ordinary Time  
 Year A  
 23 February 2020

## Readings & Responses for the Week

Sun, 23 February	Lev 19:1-2, 17-18; 1 Cor 3:16-23; Mt 5:38-48 The Lord is compassion and love.
Mon, 24 February	Jm 3:13-18; Mk 9:14-29 The precepts of the Lord gladden the heart.
Tue, 25 February	Jm 4:1-10; Mk 9:30-37 Entrust your cares to the Lord and he will support you.
Wed, 26 February Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20, 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18 Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.
Thu, 27 February	Deut 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25 Happy the man who has placed his trust in the Lord.
Fri, 28 February	Is 58:1-9; Mt 9:14-15 A humbled, contrite heart, O God, you will not spurn.
Sat, 29 February	Is 58:9-14; Lk 5:27-32 Show me, Lord, your way so that I may walk in your truth.

WEEKDAY MASS (MON - FRI)  
 Time: 6.30am, 12.15pm, 6.30pm  
 Confession: Half an hour before all Masses except the morning Mass

SUNSET MASS (SAT)  
 Time: 6.30pm

SUNDAY MASS  
 Time: 8am, 10am, 12noon\*, 5.30pm  
 \*2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday - Mass in Tagalog, subject to the availability of priests.

PUBLIC HOLIDAY : 8am, 6.30pm

SATURDAY MORNING MASS  
 Time: 7am

SATURDAY NOVENA DEVOTION  
 English: 8am, 9.30am, 11am, 1pm, 4pm, 5.30pm  
 Mandarin: 2.30pm  
 Confession: After every Novena Service except after the 11am service.

DAYS OF OBLIGATION  
 Time: 7pm (Eve of Day of Obligation)  
 6.30am, 12.15pm, 7pm