



WHAT DO YOU STAND FOR?
MUSKEGON, MI / JULY 7-13

WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?

SUNDAY, JULY 7, 2013

Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah. -Matthew 16: 13-20

YOU'RE THE ANSWER SON. THE ANSWER TO "ARE WE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE." -JONATHAN KENT

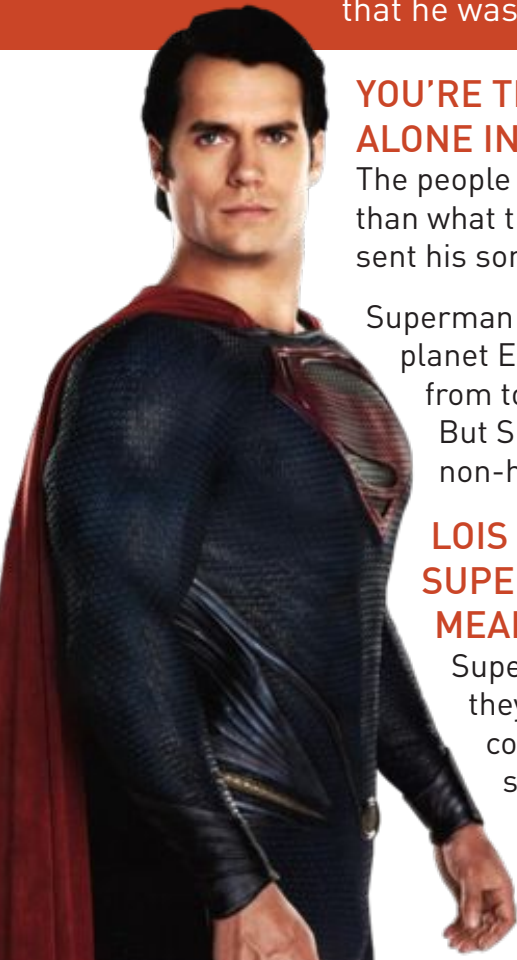
The people of earth were not alone. There was something more than what they could see and experience on their planet. Jor-El sent his son to the earth with great expectations.

Superman was a bringer of both salvation and inspiration to the planet Earth. His unique power enabled him to save humanity from total destruction at the hands of an enemy like Zod.

But Superman was so much more than just a savior from a non-human enemy.

**LOIS LANE: WHAT DOES THE "S" STAND FOR?
SUPERMAN: IT'S NOT AN "S." IN MY WORLD IT
MEANS "HOPE."**

Superman was a symbol of what all of humanity could be if they emulated his ideals and commitment to justice. He could help humanity to save themselves from... themselves. He offered humanity hope that if they all committed to be like Superman, the world could be a better place. The word "El" is the Hebrew word for



“hope.” Jor-El (the father) and Kal-El (the son) were both in the family of hope.

Jesus’ unique power as God enabled him to save humanity from God’s righteous judgment and from any other non-human enemy. But Jesus is far more than just our savior from other forces someday. Not only did God want to save humanity from other forces; God also wanted to save us from ourselves. God did not leave us alone on this planet without help or hope!

Jesus is a symbol of what all of humanity could be if we emulate His ideals and commitment to justice for the sake of making this world whole again. As we are inspired to be like Jesus, we are saved from...ourselves. We have a hope that as more and more people in more and more nations are inspired to live like Jesus, this world will continue to be a better place.

Peter understood that Jesus was the Messiah – God’s way of offering both salvation and inspiration to humanity. He knew that Jesus was the key to the future of the world. He knew that the hope for all creation was in the ways that Jesus would save and inspire humanity. God (the father) and Jesus (the son) are the sender and bringer of our hope!

After Peter answered Jesus’ question of “who do you say that I am,” Jesus offered an awesome response. He said that not even the gates of Hades (the strongest of all enemies) can stand against the church (those who know that their hope is from God).



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**Who do you say Jesus is?
How is He our salvation?
How is He our inspiration?
Is our hope for the future of humanity
in Jesus?
In what other people, actions, ideas
and things do we put our hope as
humanity?
Why is understanding who Jesus
really is so important this week?
Why is so important when we go
home?**

WHO DO YOU WANT ME TO DO FOR YOU?

MONDAY, JULY 8, 2013

They spent some time in Jericho. As Jesus was leaving town, trailed by his disciples and a parade of people, a blind beggar by the name of Bartimaeus, son of Timaeus, was sitting alongside the road. When he heard that Jesus the Nazarene was passing by, he began to cry out, "Son of David, Jesus! Mercy, have mercy on me!" Many tried to hush him up, but he yelled all the louder, "Son of David! Mercy, have mercy on me!" Jesus stopped in his tracks. "Call him over." They called him. "It's your lucky day! Get up! He's calling you to come!" Throwing off his coat, he was on his feet at once and came to Jesus. Jesus said, "What can I do for you?" The blind man said, "Rabbi, I want to see." "On your way," said Jesus. "Your faith has saved and healed you." In that very instant he recovered his sight and followed Jesus down the road. -Mark 10: 46-52

I CAN DO THINGS THAT OTHER PEOPLE CAN'T. -SUPERMAN

Superman can do things that other people can't do. He can fly, run faster than a speeding bullet and leap tall buildings in a single bound. But he didn't just use his super powers for show or for his own sake. He used his unique powers to help others.

Clark saved his classmates from drowning in a school bus. He saved a crew of men stranded on a burning oil rig. He saved Lois' life by cauterizing her wounds with his heat vision. No one else could do what Clark could do. No one else could help the way that Clark could help. If you knew Superman, what would you want him to do for you?

Jesus can do things that other people can't! Bartimaeus knew who Jesus was. He cried out, "Jesus, son of David!" He knew that Jesus





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was the Messiah from the lineage of David, who the prophets had been foretelling for centuries. If Jesus asked Bartimaeus, "Who do you say that I am," his answer would have been the same as Peter's. "You are the Messiah."

Before Jesus healed Bartimaeus, He asked a question of the blind man, "What do you want me to do for you?" His answer demonstrates his trust that Jesus was the Messiah...the one who could do things that other people can't. To anyone else, his response would have been absurd. But to Jesus, his response makes complete sense – "let me see again." Only Jesus could do this for him.

Do you believe and trust that Jesus can do things for you that no one else can do for you?

What do you want Jesus to do for you?



WHY ARE YOU AFRAID?

TUESDAY, JULY 9, 2013

Late that day he said to them, "Let's go across to the other side." They took him in the boat as he was. Other boats came along. A huge storm came up. Waves poured into the boat, threatening to sink it. And Jesus was in the stern, head on a pillow, sleeping! They roused him, saying, "Teacher, is it nothing to you that we're going down?"

Awake now, he told the wind to pipe down and said to the sea, "Quiet! Settle down!" The wind ran out of breath; the sea became smooth as glass. Jesus reprimanded the disciples: "Why are you such cowards? Don't you have any faith at all?" They were in absolute awe, staggered. "Who is this, anyway?" they asked. "Wind and sea at his beck and call!"

-Mark 4: 35-41



WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO? LET THEM DIE? -TEENAGE CLARK

When the bus that Clark was riding in with his classmates flew off a bridge and into the river, Clark had a choice. Would he disguise his true identity and power so that he didn't risk being an outcast, OR, would he use his unique ability and power to save those in danger?

It wasn't much a choice for Clark, after all. He quickly sprang into action – exiting the bus and pushing it out from the water and onto dry land. He risked his own reputation and his own safety for the sake of others. The choice to save himself instead of others never crossed his mind.

If those teenagers on the bus had known Clark's true identity and power, would they still have been afraid as the bus began to sink? Or...would their trust in Clark's ability and conviction to save them helped them to



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not be fearful?

As the storm raged and the boat seemed ready to sink, the disciples woke Jesus in a panic. His response had nothing to do with **WHAT** they feared. His reaction was all about **WHY** they feared. Why were the disciples afraid when Jesus was with them? How were they doubting who He is?

What do we fear? This is an important question to ask, but perhaps more importantly we need to ask ourselves **WHY** do we fear? If we say that Jesus is the Messiah...if we know His true identity and power...shouldn't our trust in His ability and conviction to save us help us to not be fearful?

Are there ways that we can risk our reputation for others so that they don't have to live in fear?

Are there ways that we can follow Jesus' example of sacrificing for the sake of others?



WHY DO YOU DOUBT?

WEDNESDAY, JULY 10, 2013

Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

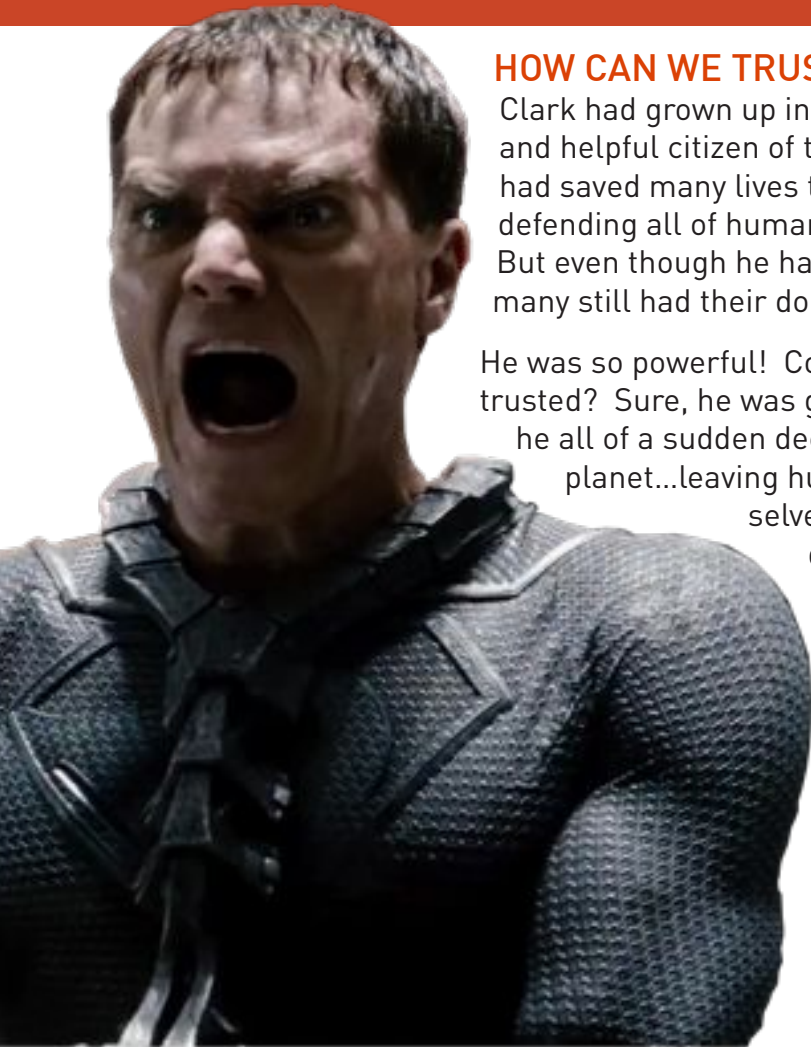
While they were talking about this, Jesus himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. -Luke 24: 35-40

HOW CAN WE TRUST YOU? -ARMY GENERAL

Clark had grown up in Kansas and had been a peaceful and helpful citizen of the earth for over thirty years. He had saved many lives throughout those years, including defending all of humanity against Zod and his cronies. But even though he had done some amazing things, many still had their doubts.

He was so powerful! Could anyone that powerful really be trusted? Sure, he was good so far...but what if? What if he all of a sudden decided to live on another planet...leaving humanity behind to fend for themselves? What if all of a sudden he decided to abuse his power like Zod? What if!?!

Superman could not magically make their doubts disappear. He could only remind them that he loved this world, that he had a long history of goodness, and that he was not their enemy. And, he could continue to act in good and just ways. The more that people knew who Superman





Jesus cannot make our doubts magically disappear. That is okay. Doubting Jesus does not change who Jesus is or how Jesus acts. We cannot control God! God will continue to remind us that He loves this world, that He has a history of doing only good things, and that He is not our enemy. God will continue to be good. The more we experience that goodness, the more we will trust God...and the less we will doubt.

really was, the less they would be able to doubt.

When Jesus appeared to the disciples after they had just seen him die, they were very doubtful. They had seen him do some amazing things, yet their inability to see him at that moment led to some serious doubts. We might say, "they should have known! How could they have doubted?"

However, if we are honest, we all admit that we struggle with our own doubts about Jesus. We hope and pray that the Spirit of Christ will not only be with us, but will be active – making good things happen. Then when God does act, we doubt that it's really him.



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If we confess that Jesus is the Messiah, why do we still struggle with doubt? What are some good things that have happened, which help us to trust? What are some reasons we doubt? How can we help each other to doubt less and to trust more?



DO YOU WANT TO GET WELL?

THURSDAY, JULY 11, 2013

Soon another Feast came around and Jesus was back in Jerusalem. Near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem there was a pool, in Hebrew called Bethesda, with five alcoves. Hundreds of sick people—blind, crippled, paralyzed—were in these alcoves. One man had been an invalid there for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him stretched out by the pool and knew how long he had been there, he said, “Do you want to get well?” The sick man said, “Sir, when the water is stirred, I don’t have anybody to put me in the pool. By the time I get there, somebody else is already in.” Jesus said, “Get up, take your bedroll, start walking.” The man was healed on the spot. He picked up his bedroll and walked off.

That day happened to be the Sabbath. The Jews stopped the healed man and said, “It’s the Sabbath. You can’t carry your bedroll around. It’s against the rules.” But he told them, “The man who made me well told me to. He said, ‘Take your bedroll and start walking.’” They asked, “Who gave you the order to take it up and start walking?” But the healed man didn’t know, for Jesus had slipped away into the crowd. -John 5: 1-13

MY FATHER BELIEVED THAT IF THE WORLD FOUND OUT WHO I REALLY WAS THEY’D REJECT ME... OUT OF FEAR. -CLARK

When Lois was discovering the truth about Clark’s identity and power, she wanted to know why he hadn’t told the whole world about himself. His answer was challenging: the world may not be ready for him...and for the help that he brings...and the ways he inspires them to join him.

They might be too afraid. Clark knew that making his identity and power known would be difficult for many to understand and accept. Even though humanity needed help, changing the ways we live is a frightening prospect. He wasn’t sure – was the world ready to change? Were they ready to live in new ways? Or would they prefer to just keep living as they always have?

Jesus approached a lame man, who had waited at a pool for nearly 40 years hoping to be healed. He needed help from Jesus...BUT...he had survived 40 years living a certain way. His life was not perfect; but it was predictable and safe. He woke up,





begged for food and asked for help.

For 40 years, kind-hearted neighbors had helped him through each day. On the one hand, his ailment made for a difficult life; but on the other hand, the sameness of each day and the kindness of neighbors made life easy. After doing the same thing every day for 40 years, Jesus wondered if the man was ready for things to change. Was he ready for a new and different kind of life?

Jesus asked the man, "Do you want to get well?" The man had to make a choice. Would he choose the same life he's had for 40 years – the life that was not perfect, but was predictable and safe? OR, would he choose a new life?

He decided that although it would be challenging to leave behind all that he knew and learn new ways of living, the new and different life that Jesus was

offering him was a better choice. Every day, we are faced with this same choice. Will we choose to keep living the ways that we've lived in the past, OR, will we choose to let Jesus offer us new and different lives?



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What about our lives do we need to leave behind?

What is scary or unknown about new and different lives?

Do we trust that the new and different lives that Jesus offers us are better and for our good?

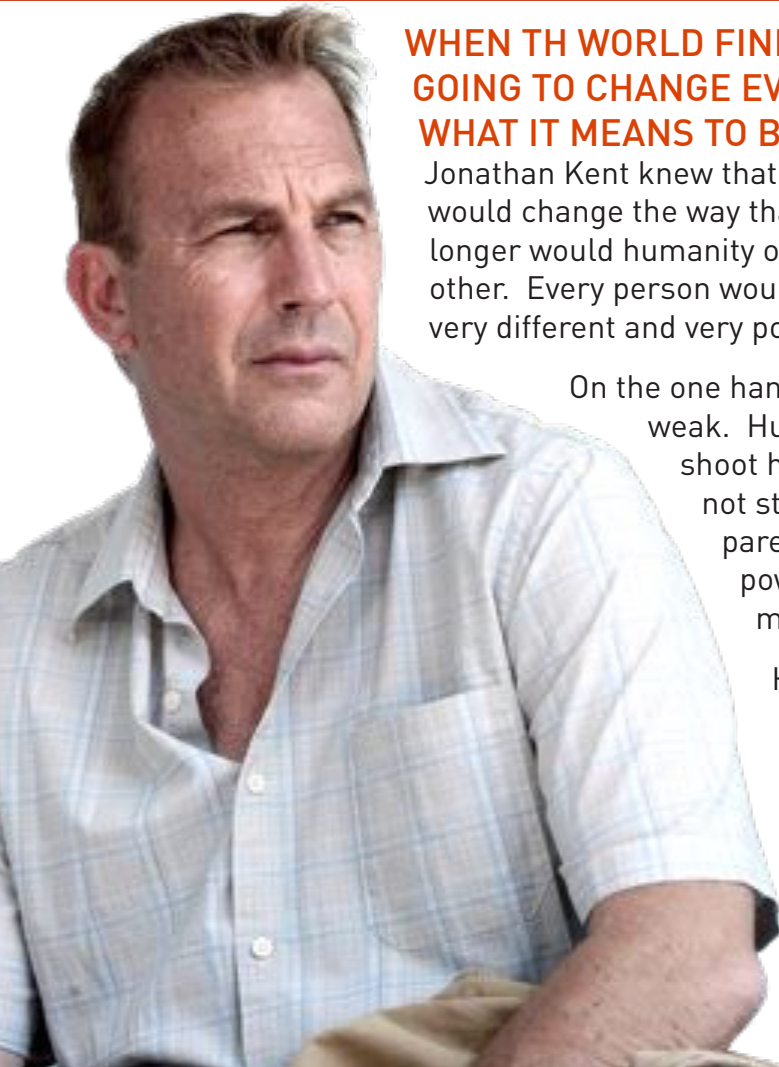
How can we help each other to choose the new ways of living that Jesus has for us?

Are we ready for the lives Jesus wants for us...what do you think?

DO YOU SEE ANYTHING?

FRIDAY, JULY 12, 2013

They arrived at Bethsaida. Some people brought a sightless man and begged Jesus to give him a healing touch. Taking him by the hand, he led him out of the village. He put spit in the man's eyes, laid hands on him, and asked, "Do you see anything?" He looked up. "I see men. They look like walking trees." So Jesus laid hands on his eyes again. The man looked hard and realized that he had recovered perfect sight, saw everything in bright, twenty-twenty focus. Jesus sent him straight home, telling him, "Don't enter the village."
-Mark 8: 22-26



WHEN THE WORLD FINDS OUT WHO YOU ARE, IT IS GOING TO CHANGE EVERYTHING... IT WILL CHANGE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN. -JONATHAN KENT

Jonathan Kent knew that Clark becoming known to the world would change the way that humanity understood itself. No longer would humanity only compare themselves to each other. Every person would compare herself or himself to the very different and very powerful Clark.

On the one hand, this would make humanity feel weak. Humanity could not fly, could not shoot heat rays out of their eyes, and could not stop or outrun a bullet. When compared to the unique and superhuman powers of Clark, humanity would feel more powerless and weak.

However, on the other hand, the comparison to Clark could help humanity to feel stronger and more empowered. Humanity could emulate Clark's commitment to justice and defending the weak. They could unite against evil of every kind for the sake of a better world.

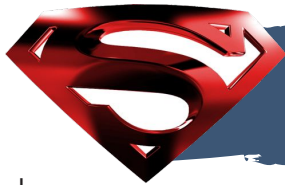


The reality is that there was no way that Clark could make them weaker. We are who we are as humanity and comparing ourselves to someone stronger doesn't actually make us any weaker. Clark could only make humanity stronger by inspiring them to be better and more committed to justice.

Clark changing what it meant to be human was a gift! He changed the way that everyone saw themselves – now they saw a strength and a possibility for good that they did not see before. He changed the way that they saw each other – now they saw a need for justice and unity of all peoples that they did not see before.

After Jesus healed a blind man, He asked the question, "Do you see anything?". After Jesus offers us healing, He asks, "Do you see anything? Did it work? Do

you see yourselves and the world around you differently than before?". When Jesus heals or helps us, we see things we've never seen before.



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How has God helped us to see ourselves differently this week?
How has God helped to see others differently this week?
What did God heal that has made us to see differently?
After an incredible week of service and spiritual growth, what will we do with our new-found sight?
How can we help each other to see ourselves and the world around us the way that God would have us to see?

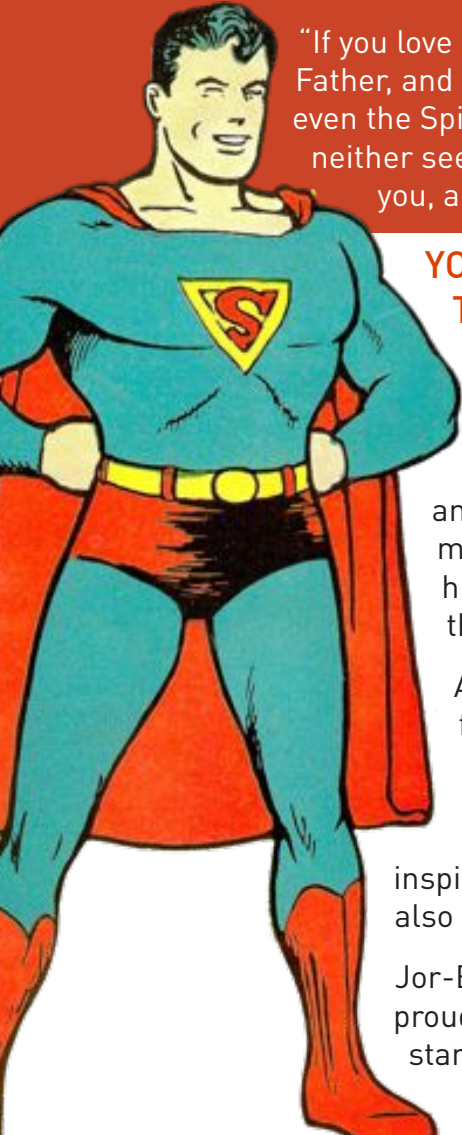
WHY DO YOU NOT BELIEVE... IN YOURSELVES?!

SATURDAY, JULY 13, 2013

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father in me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on my own authority; but the Father who dwells in me does his works. Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me; or else believe me for the sake of the works themselves.

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in me will also do the works that I do; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it, that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name, I will do it.

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you for ever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you.
-John 14: 10-17



YOU WILL GIVE THEM AN IDEAL TO STRIVE TOWARD. THEY WILL STUMBLE AND FAIL... BUT IN TIME, THEY WILL JOIN YOU IN THE SUN. -JOR-EL

Jor-El knew that his son would not only save the people of earth from enemies and destruction, but would also inspire the people to unite together for the sake of peace and justice. He knew that Kal-El/Clark/Superman could not make the world a better place by himself, but would need humanity to join him in accomplishing good and wonderful things.

As Superman proved to the world that he was a trustworthy force for good, people did begin to change and to see things differently. They did unite together and join him in the pursuit of peace and justice. Together they accomplished great things. They learned to save the world and how to inspire the world. Humanity needed Superman...but Superman also needed humanity!

Jor-El told his son, “You have a choice. You can either stand proud in front of the human race or not.” Superman chose to stand proudly for peace and justice – and others joined him.

They stood with him because he stood for them!

YOU WILL HELP THEM TO ACCOMPLISH WONDERS. EVERY PERSON CAN BE A FORCE FOR GOOD!

-JOR-EL



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When Jesus was nearing the time of his death and resurrection, he began to prepare his followers to carry forward the movement of peace and restoration that he was beginning. He told them that anyone who believes in Him...who knows the truth of his identity and power (remember the question we started with – “who do you say that I am”)...will do the works that He does and, in fact, will do even GREATER works than Jesus did. Every person can be a force for God’s good!

Humanity needed Jesus...but Jesus also needed humanity! Jesus needs his followers to learn how to save and inspire the world in the same way that He has. Jesus could have chosen to not reveal His true nature to the world, but He chose to stand proudly for God’s sake of bringing peace and new life to the world. For thousands of years, others have joined him. They stood with Jesus because Jesus stood for them!

So that we don’t have to live as God would have us live without help, Jesus promised that God’s Holy Spirit would be with us as our guide. We don’t always understand how God’s Spirit works and we don’t always recognize the Spirit’s voice, but we are never without the presence and guidance of God. We get hunches from God. God speaks to us through our family and

friends. Together we help each other to stand for God and God’s mission of peace and restoration.

What are some different priorities or causes that people stand for and commit their lives to?

What will we stand for?

Will we let God lead us as a force for good?

Do we believe that we can do the same good works that Jesus did...and even greater ones?

How can we help each other to stand for God and not just for ourselves?

To stand for the sake of others in need?

If we choose to stand for God and God’s purposes, what are some things we can do differently when we get home?

Jesus stood for us. Will we stand for Him?

**THANK YOU FOR
MAKING
A
DIFFERENCE!**



Faith Workcamps is thrilled to be attending its 22nd camp this year in Muskegon, MI! Be sure to stay up-to-date with all of the workcamp happenings by checking out our daily video blog, photos, and twitter feeds at FaithWorkcamps.com. We'd love to hear from you, so please feel free to leave us a comment on the blogs or reply to us via Facebook or Twitter. We look forward to sharing our experiences with you both online and after we return!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

2013 / MUSKEGON, MI

* Denotes 2013 Workcampers

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 Dave Arney
 Carolyn Baittinger
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 Judy Baittinger
 John Barabas
 Sara Baxter
 Julie Benner
 Erick Brewer
 Jill Brewer
 Gabrielle Burger
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