

ROCK US 11-13-19 The Incredibles Pt. 2: The Importance of Role Models

Since its inception, the movie industry has offered up heroes and villains that served as role models and anti-role models. Perhaps the biggest role models of the past were cowboys, like John Wayne: a clean-cut tough guy that always saved the day (and saved the ladies). By the 1950s, the “bad boy” role model started appearing with James Dean & Marlon Brando. These rebels paralleled rock-&-roll rebels like Elvis & Jerry Lee Lewis. By the 1960s, the John Wayne-type role models were still present, but the rebel or bad boys were increasingly taking center stage (e.g. Peter Fonda in *Easy Rider*[1969]). For girls, the role #1 models were the Disney princesses: resourceful, pretty young ladies that needed saving from Prince Charming. Nowadays, movies seem to feature women as tough, independent girls (Mulan, Elsa, Moana, Gamora, Captain Marvel, etc) that really don’t need guys. This is a major role model shift for girls from the past. Guy characters are shown as handsome, but goofy & irresponsible guys that tumble into the girls’ lives & let the girls take the lead (Kristoff in *Frozen*) or guys with largely negative personality traits (like anger, narcissism, egotistical, controlling) guys that seek to control girls (Hans in *Frozen*, Thanos in *End Game*, *Ego* in *GOTG 2*), neither of which are great guy role models. We still have a few good guy role models like Hawkeye (the family man Avenger) & Captain America (the pure-hearted hero).

So the movie features potential role models that we can follow: characters we admire & seek to emulate or follow). In *The Incredibles*, Mr. Incredible was the role model for Buddy Pine, a little kid who was the superhero’s biggest fan. Buddy loved Mr. Incredible so much that he tried to become his ward/sidekick (like Batman’s Robin). Buddy made himself into *Incrediboy*, a lad with amazing inventions that gave him incredible powers. But *Incrediboy* was spurned & rejected by Mr. Incredible, who was really sick & tired of Buddy’s overbearing personality. This rejection led Buddy to become a villain, Syndrome, who tried to destroy all ‘supers’ in his adult life & almost killed Mr. Incredible. The story of Mr. Incredible & Buddy teach us a few things:

A.) Choose your role models wisely. While it seems like Buddy picked a great role model, in the end Mr. Incredible didn’t have the type of lifestyle that was best for somebody like Buddy because he was too busy fighting crime & pursuing *Elastigirl*. Buddy could have also chosen a lot worse role models too. But life isn’t a movie. In reality young people choose role models all the time. Today, a big role models are found in rap song & video: the *gangsta*: a care-free bad-boy thug that enjoys pleasure, power & pain; and the slutty chicks that willingly follow the bad-boys into their party pads & bedrooms. I see kids following these role models here all the time. So take a purposeful look at the people who you respect or admire. Consider what they are doing & ask, “are they pulling me up or bringing me down?” At Camp A, Daryl Z made said: “If you are a mountain climber & you need mountain climbing advice, you want to have role models more advanced than you, that have gone through the challenges of the climb that are wise & experienced. You wouldn’t look to people that down the mountain or (worse yet) falling down the mountain in disaster.” God gave you a brain & wisdom: use them to think ahead & chose wise role models that build you up not drag you down (**Prov 13:20**)

B.) Human role models are flawed: Buddy had an idealistic view of Mr. Incredible, not the full picture of him. Despite his superpowers, Mr. Incredible had his personal flaws (impatience being & lack of time being two of them). We should expect that our role models have flaws too. We shouldn’t idolize people, they will almost always disappoint you or let you down in some way (**Ecc 7:20**). Jesus Christ, on the other hand, is perfect. Jesus never sinned (**1Pt 2:22a He [Jesus] never sinned.**) Jesus, God the Son, will never let you down or leave you (**Heb 13:5b**) & He proved His love for you by dying for you to pay for your sins. If you want the greatest & only perfect role model, choose Jesus Christ & follow Him (**1Pt 2:21b-24**).

C.) Realize that people are looking up to you as a role model. Mr. Incredible was either unaware of Buddy’s passion & needs, or he simply didn’t care. We need to be aware that are people watching you & seeing what you think, say & do. They’re being influenced by you. Realize this is happening, decide what kind of role model you want to be (positive/good/godly or negative/evil/ungodly) & live accordingly (**Eph 5:15-17**).

So tonight, we have some really [big questions](#) to ask ourselves:

- 1.) Who are my role models?** Who do I follow, respect, copy & look up to?
- 2.) Where are my role models leading me?** Are they leading me to good or destruction? Are they helping me in my relationship with Jesus or damaging it?
- 3.) Is Jesus Christ my #1 role model?** If not, why is that? Why do I choose imperfect role models when I have Jesus to follow.
- 4.) What kind of role model am I being towards others?** This matters a lot & has a vast impact (good or bad) on other people’s lives & eternities.

Life is happening now & life is important now. Your life is precious & it’s precious to God. He wants the best for you now & forever. Jesus came to save you & He wants to help you right now in all aspects of your life, but you have to let Him. The lives of those around us are also precious to God. We have a role in their lives too: point them to Jesus, bless them & build them up, not to harm or hurt them & lead them away from God. So tonight, choose Jesus as your ultimate role model & be the best reflection of Him to those who look up to you as a role model.

BIBLE VERSES

Prov 13:20 (MSG) Become wise by walking with the wise; hang out with fools and watch your life fall to pieces.

Ecc 7:20 (MSG) There’s not one totally good person on earth, not one who is truly pure and sinless.

Heb 13:5b (MSG) ...God assured us, “I’ll never let you down, never walk off and leave you...”

1Pt 2:21b-24 1 Peter 2:21-24 He [Jesus] is your example, and you must follow in His steps. He never sinned, nor ever deceived anyone. He did not retaliate when He was insulted, nor threaten revenge when He suffered. He left His case in the hands of God, who always judges fairly. He personally carried our sins in his body on the cross so that we can be dead to sin and live for what is right. By His wounds you are healed.

Eph 5:15-17 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.

1Tim 4:12 Don’t let anyone think less of you because you are young. Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Buddy’s childhood role model was Mr. Incredible. When you were a kid, did you have a role model from a movie, cartoon or TV show that you wanted to be like? Why did you pick them? When did you “get over” them or are they still role model?**
- 2a. Take a minute to consider the people who you really admire or follow now in life. They could be friends, family, sport stars, popular singers, movie stars or anyone you admire. After a minute, tell us the names of people you admire or try to follow.**
- 2b. The people you just mentioned are your role models. Why do you admire them & choose them as your role models?**
- 3a. Read Prov 13:20 & Ecc 7:20. Role models or people we try to be like affect our lives in very positive or very negative ways. How have foolish/negative/immature/ungodly role models have let you down, harmed you or made “your life fall to pieces”?**
- 3b. How have wise/positive/mature/godly role models have helped you grow and become a better, more godly person?**
- 4. Tonight Dan challenged us all to ask ourselves: “Where are my role models leading me?” When you stop & honestly think about this important question, what’s your answer?**
- 5. Read Heb 13:5b & 1Pt 2:21-24. Is Jesus the ultimate role model & is Jesus your #1, ultimate role model? Why or why not?**
- 6a. Read Eph 5:15-17 & 1Tim 4:12. Believe it or not, people are watching you & you’re their role model! Why’s this so important to realize?**
- 6b. What kind of a role model are you being to those around you?**
- 7. What needs to change in your life as it relates to your role models and to the role model that you are being to others?**

CLOSING PRAYER: Lord Jesus, thank You for dying for our sins & raising from the dead. You give us new & eternal life. Lord, thank You for being our ultimate role model. Help us to choose You as our ultimate role model. Help us to wisely choose people of influence in our lives. Take any negative, foolish or ungodly role models out of our life. And help us to realize that people are watching us. Let us be the role models that exemplify Your love, truth & hope that You call us to reflect. Amen