

MARIAH CAREY



HERO

If you look inside your heart
You don't have to be afraid
Of what you are
There's an answer
If you reach into your soul
And the sorrow that you know
Will melt away

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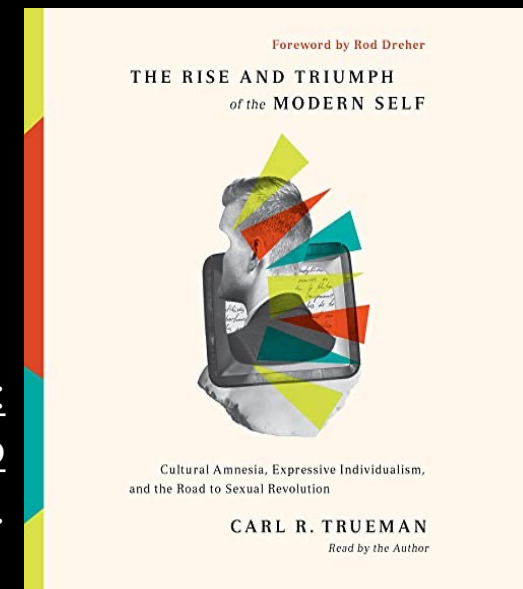
...And then a hero comes along
With the strength to carry on
And you cast your fears aside
And you know you can survive
So when you feel like hope is gone
Look inside you and be strong
And you'll finally see the truth

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With the strength to carry on
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So when you feel like hope is gone
Look inside you and be strong
And you'll finally see the truth
That a hero lies in you

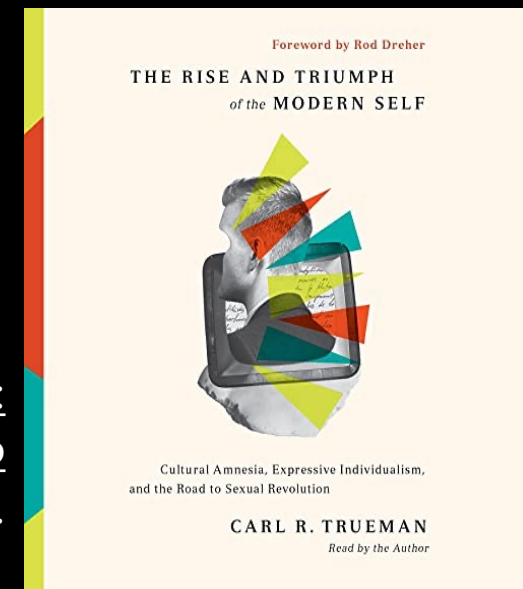
These (changes within culture) lead to a prioritization of the individual's inner psychology—we might even say “feelings” or “intuitions”—for our sense of who we are and what the purpose of our lives...A mimetic view regards the world as having a given order and given meaning and thus sees human beings as required to discover that meaning and conform themselves to it. Poiesis, by way of contrast, sees the world as so much raw material out of which meaning and purpose can be created by the individual.

Carl Trueman, *The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution*. Pages 23, 39.



Then the individual is king (or queen). He (or she) can be whomever they want to be. And rejecting the notion of any external authority or meaning to which education is to conform, the individual simply makes himself the creator of any meaning that there might be. So-called “external” or “objective” truths are then simply constructs designed by the powerful to intimidate and to harm the weak.

Carl Trueman, The Rise and Triumph of the Modern Self: Cultural Amnesia, Expressive Individualism, and the Road to Sexual Revolution. Pages 50.



Not Just



Another Story

Not Just Another Story

From songs and novels to movies and TV, there is something unique about the power of stories and their ability to resonate with our hearts in compelling and moving ways. In the gospels, we see many accounts of Jesus telling parables and re-imagining stories to teach, equip, and win the hearts of his hearers. And yet, Jesus wasn't a mere teacher or storyteller, but one who communicated, and is himself, the power of God for salvation. This summer we examine what makes the stories of Jesus so unique, powerful, and life giving to us today.

What are “all these things”?

Luke 7:18–35

¹⁸ John’s disciples told him about all these things. Calling two of them, ¹⁹ he sent them to the Lord to ask, “Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?” ²⁰ When the men came to Jesus, they said, “John the Baptist sent us to you to ask, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or should we expect someone else?’ ”

“Are you the one? Are you the Messiah?”

Luke 7:18–35

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“Report what you’ve seen and heard”

Luke 7:18–35

²¹ At that very time Jesus cured many who had diseases, sicknesses and evil spirits, and gave sight to many who were blind. ²² So he replied to the messengers, “Go back and report to John what you have seen and heard: The blind receive sight, the lame walk, those who have leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the good news is proclaimed to the poor. ²³ Blessed is anyone who does not stumble on account of me.”

Why might one be offended by these things?

Luke 7:18–35

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THE Witch Trials OF
J.K. ROWLING

THE FREEPRESS

Is John the Baptist forerunner to the Messiah?

Luke 7:18–35

²⁴ After John's messengers left, Jesus began to speak to the crowd about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed swayed by the wind? ²⁵ If not, what did you go out to see? A man dressed in fine clothes? No, those who wear expensive clothes and indulge in luxury are in palaces. ²⁶ But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ²⁷ This is the one about whom it is written: " 'I will send my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you.' ²⁸ I tell you, among those born of women there is no one greater than John; yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he."

Two responses to John the Baptist

Luke 7:18–35

²⁹ (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. ³⁰ But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

Jesus: This is what I've seen and heard

Luke 7:18–35

³¹ Jesus went on to say, “To what, then, can I compare the people of this generation? What are they like? ³² They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling out to each other: “ ‘We played the pipe for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not cry.’ ³³ For John the Baptist came neither eating bread nor drinking wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ ³⁴ The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Here is a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners.’ ³⁵ But wisdom is proved right by all her children.”

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Jesus: Am I the one?

Luke 7:18–35

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“Wisdom is proved right by all her children”

1 Corinthians 1:22–24, 30

²² Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, ²³ but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴ but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God...³⁰ It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God — that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.





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MARIAH CAREY



HERO

A politician
First round draft pick
Newborn baby
A change in bosses
The author who “changed my life”
The hero inside

“Are you the one? Are you the Messiah?”



Juneteenth

FAITH & FREEDOM

From the Our Daily Bread Voices Collection,
an Our Daily Bread Media Production



“No social institution in the Black community is more central and important than the Black church.”

The Black Church: This Is Our Story, This Is Our Song
Henry Louis Gates, Jr., the Alphonse Fletcher University
Professor at Harvard University and director of the Hutchins
Center for African and African American Research



When I am alone,
When I am alone,
When I am alone,
Give me Jesus.

Give me Jesus,
Give me Jesus,
You can have all this world,
Give me Jesus.

Is Jesus your salvation today?

Is Jesus your salvation today?

**Can we – Hope Community – be a central and
important support to one another?**