

PASTOR'S THOUGHTS

27 .07 . 2025

We are all humans.

This past week has been one of those sobering moments where the fragility of life is laid bare before us. Three figures from very different worlds—television, music, and sport—have left us: Malcolm Jamal Warner at 54, Ozzy Osbourne at 76, and Hulk Hogan at 71. Each of them, in their own way, shaped culture, created memories, and left an imprint that will not easily fade.

Malcolm Jamal Warner became a household name as Theo Huxtable on *The Cosby Show*, a role that made him a familiar face in living rooms around the world. Beyond the sitcom fame, he showed resilience and depth, refusing to be confined by his early success. Off screen, he carried himself with humility in an industry often unkind to child stars. His death in a tragic drowning accident reminds us how sudden life can change - one moment a holiday, the next a headline of loss.

Ozzy Osbourne lived at the opposite end of the spectrum: loud, brash, unpredictable. He was labelled the Prince of Darkness who became an icon of heavy metal. With Black Sabbath and later as a solo artist, he sold more than 100 million records and pioneered a genre that gave voice to rebellion and raw emotion. Yet behind the stage persona was a man who fought addiction and battled Parkinson's. Just weeks before his passing, he performed one last show in Birmingham, seated on a throne, his voice still ringing with power.

Hulk Hogan AKA Terry Bollea the face of professional wrestling during its golden age. For an entire generation, he was more than a wrestler; he was a larger-than-life hero and star in the Rocky movie sequel. His persona built an empire of entertainment that crossed from wrestling rings to film screens and children's lunchboxes. Interestingly, he was

baptized 18 months prior to his passing as he also had challenges with health and personal controversies. His sudden cardiac arrest this week shocked fans who still saw him as indestructible.

Three men. Three different worlds. One common thread: they were more than what we saw on screen or in the ring. Malcolm brought laughter and grounded representation of family life to millions. Ozzy gave a soundtrack to those seeking freedom and authenticity. Hogan offered escapism and belief in something larger than ourselves. Their lives were complex and intertwined with triumph and flaws, strength and vulnerability.

Their passings leaves us with the question as to what truly matters? When all is gone, the legacy that endures is that which inspired someone to keep going.

Scripture reminds us of this truth:

“For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.” — **James 4:14**

Life is fleeting, yet precious. These men lived boldly, each in his own way. Their stories remind us not to waste the days we have, to love deeply, to forgive quickly, and to leave behind more than headlines by a life that celebrates God. Remember in all things, *we are humans*
