

AT THE MOVIES

Star Wars: The Force Awakens

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June 5, 2016

Discussion Notes

The Crossing Church

Las Vegas, Nevada

OPENING

Everyone loves a good story. Jesus was the master storyteller and, when He talked about spiritual truths, He used modern day stories to bring truth to life. Movies are like modern day parables and we are using these modern day stories to help us understand spiritual truths.

SCRIPTURE¹

Ephesians 6:12 "For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places."

Colossians 1:27 (NIV) "To them (rescued ones) God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious riches of this mystery, which is Christ IN YOU, the hope of glory."

Ephesians 1:19-20 "I pray that you will begin to understand the incredible greatness of his power for us who believe him. This is the SAME POWER that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God's right hand in the heavenly realms."

Romans 8:10-11 (Msg) "It stands to reason, doesn't it, that if the alive-and-present God who raised Jesus from the dead moves INTO your life, he'll do the same thing IN YOU that he did in Jesus, bringing you alive to himself? When God lives and breathes in you, you are delivered from that dead life. With his Spirit living IN YOU, your body will be as alive as Christ's!"

Colossians 2:6-10 "And now, just as you accepted Christ Jesus as your Lord, you must continue to follow him. Let your roots grow down into him and let your lives be built on him. Then your faith will grow strong in the truth you were taught, and you will overflow with thankfulness. Don't let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority."

2 Peter 1:3 "As we know Jesus better, his divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life."

John 15:4-5 "Remain in me, and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful unless you remain in me. Yes, I am the vine; you are the branches. Those who remain in me, and I in them, will produce much fruit. For apart from me you can do nothing."

Galatians 5:16, 25 "So I say, let the Holy Spirit guide your lives. Then you won't be doing what your sinful nature craves. Since we are living by the Spirit, let us follow the Spirit's leading in every part of our lives."

OBSERVATION

In the movie "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" we are immersed in the classic battle between good and evil. The protagonists have the FORCE on their side and, in our very real struggle between good and evil, our FORCE is God and, when we let Him awaken in us, we become unstoppable. Jesus didn't come to earth and die just so we could go to heaven - He came to live in us so we could live a righteous, powerful life in His name right here.

¹ All scripture listed is NLT unless otherwise indicated

Question: Have you seen a Star Wars movie? If so, discuss the various characters and their comparison to real life people in the world today.

Question: In what ways are God and the Force comparable? In what ways are Satan and Darth Vader comparable?

APPLICATION

Two words that can change everything are: **IN YOU**. We were not born with a power source to live the life that God promised and ordained for us to live. We need help beyond ourselves. When we surrender to the love and leadership of Jesus, He moves in us. It involves a lifestyle, a hope of a change, a hope of a transformation and a different way of living that reflects the light and glory of God.

Question: What changes would you like to see in your life?

Christ in you = POWER

- Power to make the right decisions;
- Power to battle addictions;
- Power to forgive;
- Power to walk away from temptation;
- Power to love an enemy;
- Power to love unconditionally;
- Power to live this life;

Question: If you had a new power source in your life, how would you use it?

Christ in you = COMPLETE

- You have been made complete in Him;
- Your thirst for satisfaction has been quenched;
- Your quest for purpose is finally done;
- Your need for acceptance has been met;
- Your potential is complete;

Question: What areas in your life feel incomplete to you?

Question: What would you wish to do differently?

We grow just as a baby grows: in abilities and skills, in understanding and wisdom, in the fruits of the Spirit and wisdom.

Question: If you are raising children today, in what ways does their growing up to be adults become a metaphor for our lives in Christ?

Christ in you = REMAIN

Remaining means abiding and is God's 24/7 presence in us. We have a tendency to compartmentalize, but with God it is a daily, all day kind of choice to allow the Holy Spirit to be the Force in your life that He wants to be. "The main measure of your devotion to God is not your 'devotional life.' It is simply your life."² Quenching that Force grieves the Spirit.

Question: How does a 24/7 presence of God in your life actually look?

PRAYER

Heavenly Father, I trust that the Your power is going to awaken in me as I remain in You. I just want to stay in the flow today - I don't want to walk down that old road anymore. I want to commune with You every day, all day, and do the rest of my life together with You. In Jesus' name. Amen.

² The Me I Want to Be. John Ortberg.