

Transformers Transforming Movies

Thursday, July 7, 2005



INITIAL MOVIE REACTIONS

- Did you like the film or not?
- What scenes stood out to you? Why?
- From a secular viewpoint, what main themes (ideals, beliefs, attitudes, etc) is this film is trying to portray?

BIBLICAL THEMES AND PARALLELS

1) One main theme in this movie is ENVY, which can be defined as resenting God's goodness in the life of others, while ignoring God's goodness in one's own life.

2) CONSEQUENCES:

- Prov 14:30: bring misery
- James 3:16: Leads to more sin
- James 4:1-3: Causes relational conflict
- Gen 37:5: hostility
- Psychological: depression and avoidance

3) Did Salieri experience those consequences? If so, how? Can you think of other consequences?

Obsession—neglecting everything else
Take away enjoyment of things

4) Did Salieri's intense envy surprise you, or is it a natural response?

The depth and intensity was shocking, but envy seems to be everywhere

5) Compare the following Biblical examples to the movie:

- Gen. 4:3-16: cain and abel
- Gen 37: joseph and his brothers
- Matt 27:17,18: crucifixion of christ

6) Do you agree or disagree with this quote? Why?

"It is easier to empathize with the suffering and failures of others than the offer of solidarity in times of success and happiness?" — Rabbi Nilton Bonder

As Christians we should rejoice with others, but our sinful nature makes it difficult sometimes

7) Some cultural critics label “success” as America’s national disease. Do you agree? Why or why not?

Yes. We should redefine our definition of success. View it as a “patchwork quilt” instead of a “ladder”

8) Salieri questions why God “would bestow His divine genius on Mozart, who is neither good nor chaste?” How would you respond to Salieri?

Salieri was implying that he himself was good and chaste, but he failed to recognize his own sins and sinful nature. God’s instruments are sinful human beings who will fail and are not perfect

9) Does Phil. 1:15-18 help answer Salieri’s question, or does it bring more mystery? What about James 4:1-6?

The message of Christ is more important than the medium. God reveals himself through sinful creatures. Yet Salieri’s search for fame and greatness was the wrong focus

10) Salieri struggles with the burden of mediocrity. He questions why God “would implant the desire to serve and then withhold the talent to do it?” How would you respond to Salieri?

Salieri wasn’t recognizing that he indeed had talent he could have used to serve the Lord. We must serve God with the gifts we are given, no matter how great or small. We must recognize that ALL things come from God.

11) Ways to Overcome

- Gal 5:16-26: Use the tools of the holy Spirit, who empowers us through prayer, the Word, worship, bible study, and fellowship (see also Titus 3:1-8)
- Gal 6:4: Look at ourselves, not our neighbors
- Stop complaining (1 Cor 10:10)
- Learn to be content (Phil 4:12,13; 1 Tim 6:6-10)
- Recognize your uniqueness (Psalm 139:13,14)
- Value love (Romans 12:9-21)
- Focus on pleasing God, not man (Col 3:1-10)

12) What would you tell Salieri to help him overcome his envy of Mozart?

13) If you were the priest talking to the elder Salieri, what would you say to him?

God blessed you and you failed to recognize it; God made you the way He wanted you; He had a plan; Quit lying to God — your reasons and justifications are based on sin, not God’s love

WRAP-UP QUOTE: “Focus more on who you ARE and less on who you AREN’T.”