

# Transformers Transforming Movies

Monday, July 18, 2005

OfficeSpace

## INITIAL MOVIE REACTIONS

- Did you like the film or not?
  
- What scenes stood out to you? Why?

## BIBLICAL THEMES AND PARALLELS

1) What main themes (ideals, beliefs, attitudes, etc) is this film trying to portray, if any?

Work sucks; what brings true happiness;

2) The tagline of this movie is “Work sucks.” Do you agree or disagree? Why?

3) When talking about Initech, Peter said everyday at work was worse than the day before. Do you think God wants us to feel that way about work?

4) What do the following verses say about work:

- Genesis 3:17-19: It won't be **EASY**\_\_\_\_\_.
- Deut. 16:15: God uses it to **BLESS**\_\_\_\_\_ us.
- Eccl. 9:7-10: **ENJOY**\_\_\_\_\_ it and do our **BEST**\_\_\_\_\_.

5) People find satisfaction in different things. Which characters in the movie seemed satisfied with their lives? What gave them satisfaction?

**Lawrence—construction work; Brian—expressing himself at work; Lumbergh—power and money; Peter—at the end, finding a point to his work, not being bored**

6) Which characters were unsatisfied with their jobs and lives? Do you think they could ever find satisfaction?

**Milton—even at the end he was unsatisfied; Joanna—didn't like flare, found new job; Peter—new perspective and new job**

- 7) What do gives you satisfaction in your work and your life? Read Eccl 2:24-25 for the Christian response on what provides our satisfaction.

Knowing that we are working for God, and all comes from God's hand

- 9) Luther's Doctrine of VOCATION, which comes from the Latin word for calling:

Summary: One can do every occupation to the glory of God

Luther's focus: Vocation is not so much a matter of what WE do; rather, it is a matter of what GOD does in and through us.

- Elements:
- 1) Your Calling at Work
  - 2) Your Calling in the Family
  - 3) Your Calling at Church
  - 4) Your Calling as a Citizen

- 10) Why should we do the best we can in our work? See Matt 25:40.

The purpose of vocation is to LOVE and SERVE one's NEIGHBOR

- 11) Can you think of any ways the characters in the movie could have served their neighbors?

- 12) Peter's boss was rather annoying. What should Christians do when they find themselves under authority they don't like? What if they don't agree with the authority?

Romans 13:1-8: All AUTHORITY comes from GOD

- 13) How can we find peace when concerned with the question "what should I do with the rest of my life?" Do Proverbs 16:1-9, Romans 8:28-29, Matthew 6:25-34, or Luke 9:23 help?

**Do Not Worry, it's all taken care of; Rest in the power of God's will and His plan; Pray!!! Praying for our future makes God a part of our future and our focus.**

#### THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUOTE

"The Christian doctrine of vocation – so central to the theology of the whole people of God – starts with being called to Someone before we are called to something."  
R. Paul Stevens

#### OTHER COMMENTS OR BIBLICAL PARALLELS OF THE MOVIE?

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22: "Test everything. Hold on to the good. Avoid every kind of evil."

## ADDITIONAL NOTES:

Medieval Old Testament scholars called Ecclesiastes “one of the Bible’s two dangerous books”. Though it reveals the fragile joy of life, it is full of cynicism and despair that seem out of place in a narrative Bible. It is full of paradoxes and contradictions. Luther and the Reformers view the book’s purpose to show the consequences of secular thinking and futility of life outside of God’s saving grace. The book serves as “the question” for which the NT provides “the answer”. One’s occupation can be viewed in the same manner, as evidence in Luther’s “doctrine of vocation”

Summary: one can do every occupation to the glory of God

Luther’s focus: vocation is not so much a matter of what WE do; rather, it is a matter of what GOD does in and through us.

We pray “give us this day our daily bread”. And the Lord does just that, through human beings: farmers who plant, bakers who bake, truck drivers who haul the products, etc. God could do this miraculously, as he did with manna in the desert, but He has chosen to work through humans who serve each other with their talents and skills. This is the doctrine of vocation.

Luther sees Vocation as not just a matter of Law, which focuses on what we are to do, but also of Gospel, a manifestation of God’s action.

Luther says vocation is a “mask of God”. God hides Himself in the workplace, the family, the church, and the seemingly secular society. Meaning God is present in it and transfigures our everyday life.

Vocation—comes from Latin word for “calling”

Doctrine of vocation was developed rigorously during the Reformation when the term vocation was used not only for churchworkers, but also for laypeople, as the belief that all people can handle holy things, read and proclaim the Gospel. “The priesthood of all believers” didn’t turn everyone into church workers, it turned all kind of work into a sacred calling.

Romans 13:1-6: All authority comes from God.

“In God’s sight it is faith that makes a person holy; it alone serves God, while our works serve people.”  
Luther

“God does not need our good works, but our neighbor does.” Wingren

In our vocations, we are not serving God. We are serving people.

The purpose of vocation is to love and serve one’s neighbor.

God is also hidden in our neighbor. Matt 25:40. What motivates Christians to love their neighbors is to see Christ in them.

Finding your vocation: Do not ask “what job shall I choose?” Ask “What is God calling me to do?” Our vocation is not something we choose for ourselves. It is something to which we are called, and it has many realms, not just the workplace. Evident in our primary vocation within our family: we did not choose our parents or our relatives, but we are called to serve them and love them. Although we are make choices about our life’s work, our choices, our desires, our dreams, are all a function of who we are, that is who GOD made us to be.

**We ARE to plan in the here and now, but we can do so in the confidence that the Lord is acting in our lives and our circumstances, calling us to His purpose.**

**Vocation is not determined solely by looking at ourselves. It comes from the outside, having to do with opportunities and circumstances, doors opening and closing.**

**Finding our vocation is largely a matter of finding where God is, the God who hides Himself in our neighbors, in ourselves, and in His world. One we notice the Hidden God and realize how He is at work—in the workplace, families, the community, and the church—and we realize the part we play in His design, we have found our vocation.**

**Your calling as a worker, in the family, as a citizen, and in the church**

**Our vocations can be satisfying and fulfilling, but also frustrating and boring, because our vocations are under a curse from the fall of man.**

**Luke 9:23 — we must bear our cross daily, even in our vocation. Sometimes we will be refreshed with success and victory. Other times we will be driven to depend on Jesus more and grow deeper in our faith through the frustrations of our vocation.**

**When we pray for our vocation, we recognize its connection to God and we turn it over to Him. Trying to fulfill our vocations without prayer is effectively shutting Him out from our work.**

**3) What is your reaction to the question “What would you do if you had \$1 million?” Do you have an answer?**

**The point of the \$1 million dollar question is to determine your desires and then find a way to achieve them. In a secular world, often times money is the motivation. A Christian’s motivation should stem from God.**