



INITIAL MOVIE REACTIONS

- Did you like the film or not?
- What scenes stood out to you? Why?
- Would you watch this film more than once? What qualities does it have once the element of surprise is gone?
WHEN REWATCHING THE FILM, YOU NOTICE THINGS YOU DIDN'T CATCH ON TO BEFORE
- From a secular viewpoint, what main themes (ideals, beliefs, attitudes, etc) is this film is trying to portray?

BIBLICAL THEMES AND PARALLELS

- Read Psalm 130. In what ways does this passage relate to the movie?
- The title of this movie is "The Shawshank Redemption." How would you define "redemption"?

TO BUY SOMETHING BACK, USUALLY AT A STAGGERING PRICE

- Who do you think was redeemed in this movie? How did that redemption occur?

ANDY — redeemed from old life thru prison; redeemed from prison life through escape

RED — redeemed from old life thru friendship with Andy

SHAWSHANK — redeemed from evil and corruption thru chain of events

- How would Christians define redemption? Then read Romans 3:21-25a.

SALVATION FROM SIN THROUGH THE SACRIFICE OF JESUS CHRIST

- Read Colossians 1:10-14. Does this passage remind you of any particular scenes from the movie?

LIGHT v. DARK PARALLELS IN MOVIE

LIGHTNING SHINING ON HIM AFTER HE HAS ESCAPED

- In what way is the movie's redemption different from our redemption through Christ?

SIMILAR: innocent man comes to our world and becomes a crook in order to redeem us

DISIMILAR: Christ is not selfish, he did everything out of love. I don't think the same can be said of Andy

- Who in the Bible does the Warden remind you of? In what ways are they similar or different? See Matthew 23.

PHARISEES

- Another big theme in this movie is HOPE. Andy and Red had two opposing views on hope:

RED: Hope is a DANGEROUS thing. It can drive a man INSANE.

ANDY: Hope is a GOOD thing. Maybe the BEST of things. And no GOOD thing ever DIES.

- In what ways can you relate to each of their views?
- Andy had hope in the worst of situations. What do you think Andy's source of hope was? What is our source of hope? See Romans 15:13.

ANDY: hope when the rock fell from the wall; hope when he was granted so many privileges; hope from the truth
CHRISTIANS: the Holy Spirit is our source of hope

- In what ways is (or isn't) Andy an example of Romans 5:1-5?

Andy preserved many difficulties, was able to build character and trust with the guards, which gave him hope of escape later on

- Read the "Parable of the Persistent Widow" found in Luke 18:1-8 and compare it to Andy's situation.

ANDY'S PERSISTANCY WITH THE LIBRARY BOOKS

- The movie's tagline is "Fear can hold you prisoner. Hope can set you free." In what ways does fear hold you prisoner in your daily life? How can you break free of that fear?
- Can fear ever be a good thing? If so, how? Read both Psalm 111:10 with 1 John 5:18. How do we reconcile those two verses with each other?

DIFFERENT TYPE OF FEAR: HONOR AND RESPECT v. TERROR AND DREAD

THOUGHT-PROVOKING QUOTE

Consult not your fears but your hopes and your dreams. Think not about your frustrations, but about your unfulfilled potential. Concern yourself not with what you tried and failed in, but with what it is still possible for you to do. — Pope John XXIII

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."