



Come Matter Here: You Are Not The Villain | September 2, 2020

Discussion Guide

The Scoop

Have you ever watched a movie so many times that you don't think you could possibly learn anything else about it, then you watch it one more time and something new jumps out at you? This too can be true with the Bible and our faith!

Key Verses

Mark 9:24

Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

Discussion

We each have those few movies that we watch over and over again, and after a while, we have all the major lines, songs, or moments memorized to the point that we can lose sight of what the movie is all about... i.e; the Disney movie *Frozen*. It's usually not until we look at the movie from a fresh perspective that things seem to click and we understand something new about the film.

1. What is one movie that you can quote nearly every line or song from?
2. Can you think of a movie that has provided great life lessons?

Interestingly enough, Disney's *Frozen* originally planned on the Elsa as the villain. The song writers couldn't get things to come together and when the movie's hit song "Let It Go" came along, it completely rewrote the movie. It's not uncommon for many Christians to approach life as if we were the villains. This is simply not true. Jesus came along and completely rewrote the story. Jesus didn't come to fix us, but rather to give us a new purpose and perspective. When we have "seen the movie" enough times, we can start to misquote or focus on certain scenes and miss the point altogether.

3. Have you ever interpreted a Bible story completely differently than someone else, or applied it differently to a given situation?
4. In what ways have you seen yourself as the villain as a result of your faith? How has Jesus rewritten your story?

In Mark 9:24, Jesus is confronted by a blind child and his father who plead for Jesus's help in healing his son's loss of sight. Upon being questioned on whether the man believed the word of Jesus, the man exclaimed, "'I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!'" Many of us believe to a certain extent, but our unbelief; the things that we have misunderstood or misapplied lead to a lot of disbelief.

5. How does looking at humans as children of God who are here to engage and impact the lives of others rather than villains who need to be fixed or defeated change the way you see yourself and others? Does it change the way you read the Bible?
6. What might be some places of "unbelief" for you? What do you have a hard time believing or reconciling?

What's Next?

For the month of September, consider reading 1 Gospel per week. Read them as complete stories rather than looking for 1 or 2 verses. Look for themes and meta-narratives rather than 1 thing to prove a point. At any given moment in a good movie, the main characters may look very different than if you consider the whole plot.

You can find a template of our 5-minute faith journal at faithinfive.com to further engage your goals and connect them with your faith.