

**Exodus 4:10-12**

**Acts 9:1-6**

**July 23, '17**

**MOVIES WITH A MESSAGE**  
**“I HAVE A VOICE!”**

**TODAY MARKS THE HALFWAY POINT OF A 12-WEEK SUMMER SERIES THAT FOCUSES ON 4 BOOKS, 4 FILMS & 4 SONGS THAT CONVEY A CHRISTIAN MESSAGE WITHOUT BEING OVERTLY RELIGIOUS.**

**WITH EVERYTHING WE’VE LOOK AT THUS FAR, I CAN ENTHUSIASTICALLY RECOMMEND THEM TO YOU.**

**I HAVE NO HESITANCY WHATSOEVER IN ENCOURAGING YOU TO READ THE BOOKS THAT HAVE SERVED AS OUR FOCUS – ALIVE, UNDER THE OVERPASS, FINDING GOD IN THE QUESTIONS, AND THE ROAD TO CHARACTER.**

**I CAN ALSO STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEE COOL HAND LUKE (AGAIN - AND WITH NEW EYES - IF YOU ALREADY HAVE) AND THE TWO OTHER MOVIES WE MENTIONED LAST WEEK – PLACES IN THE HEART AND FIELD OF DREAMS.**

**I ALSO STRONGLY ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEE THE MOVIE FROM WHICH OUR TITLE COMES TODAY – THE KING’S SPEECH.**

**THERE’S ANOTHER FILM, THOUGH, THAT I WOULD REALLY LIKE TO INCLUDE IN THIS SERIES, BUT CAN’T.**

**I CAN’T BECAUSE THERE’S NO WAY I WOULD EVER ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEE IT.**

**I CAN’T ENCOURAGE YOU TO SEE IT BECAUSE OF ITS CONTENT.**

**IN ANY LIST OF MOVIES WITH A PROFOUND THEOLOGICAL MESSAGE, THOUGH, IT'S A MOVIE THAT SIMPLY MUST BE INCLUDED.**

**IT'S MASTERFULLY WRITTEN & DIRECTED AND THE ACTING IS STUNNINGLY EXCELLENT.**

**BUT I REALLY CAN'T USE IT.**

**THE MOVIE WE *WILL* LOOK AT TODAY, THOUGH, IS ALSO MASTERFULLY DONE.**

**THE KING'S SPEECH WON THE ACADEMY AWARD FOR BEST PICTURE, BEST ACTOR, BEST DIRECTOR & BEST SCREENPLAY – A CLEAN SWEEP OF ALL FOUR MAJOR CATEGORIES.**

**IT'S A FILM THAT IS, FOR THE MOST PART, HISTORICALLY ACCURATE.**

**HERE'S A SINGLE-SENTENCE SYNOPSIS IN CASE YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THE MOVIE IS ABOUT: AT**

**THE BEGINNING OF WORLD WAR II, AN UNORTHODOX SPEECH THERAPIST HELPS THE NEW KING OF ENGLAND OVERCOME HIS STUTTERING SO HE CAN INSTILL CONFIDENCE & COURAGE IN THE PEOPLE OF GREAT BRITAIN.**

**THE ACTING IS SUPERB WITH SOME OF THE EXCHANGES BETWEEN COLIN FIRTH & GEOFFREY RUSH BEING AMONG THE FINEST EVER SEEN IN A MOVIE.**

**PRINCE ALBERT, PLAYED BY FIRTH, IS PLAGUED BY A PRONOUNCED STUTTER FROM A VERY YOUNG AGE.**

**HE DOESN'T REALLY THINK IT WILL MATTER MUCH BECAUSE HIS OLDER BROTHER, DAVID, IS HEIR TO THE THRONE.**

**BUT WHEN THEIR FATHER, KING GEORGE V DIES,  
DAVID VERY RELUCTANTLY ASCENDS TO THE  
THRONE BUT QUICKLY STEPS DOWN SO THAT HE CAN  
MARRY HIS TWICE-DIVORCED AMERICAN MISTRESS.**

**ALBERT IS NEXT IN LINE & HE'S EVEN MORE  
RELUCTANT THAN HIS BROTHER, BUT FOR A VERY  
DIFFERENT REASON.**

**HIS STUTTER PREVENTS HIM FROM SPEAKING IN  
PUBLIC & PUBLIC SPEAKING IS ESSENTIAL TO BEING  
THE KING OF ENGLAND – ESPECIALLY WITH THE  
THREAT OF WAR LOOMING EVERY DAY.**

**AFTER A ROCKY START TO THEIR RELATIONSHIP,  
HE & HIS SPEECH THERAPIST, LIONEL LOGUE,  
DEVELOP A DEEP & ABIDING FRIENDSHIP THAT WILL  
LAST FOR THE REST OF THEIR LIVES.**

**THEY BOTH DISPLAY TREMENDOUS COURAGE & TENACITY, HUMILITY & RESOLVE.**

**OVERCOMING HIS AFFLICTION PROVES TO BE INCREDIBLY DIFFICULT FOR ALBERT, EVEN AFTER HE BECOMES KING GEORGE VI.**

**WE LEARN THAT HE ENDURED ABUSE AS A CHILD FROM HIS CLASSMATES & EVEN HIS FAMILY.**

**AT ONE POINT IN THE FILM, AS HE'S PAINFULLY ATTEMPTING TO SPEAK ON THE RADIO, HIS FATHER BECOMES IMPATIENT & COMMANDS HIM TO "RELAX" – AS IF SHOUTING AT HIM TO "RELAX!" IS GOING TO DO THE TRICK!**

**AFTER HIS FATHER –THE KING – HAS DIED, ALBERT LEARNS THAT HIS LAST WORDS WERE –**  
***"ALBERT HAD MORE COURAGE THAN ALL HIS BROTHERS PUT TOGETHER."***

**HOW TRAGIC THAT HE NEVER HEARD THAT KIND OF ENCOURAGEMENT FROM HIS FATHER WHILE HE WAS ALIVE.**

**THERE'S A LESSON THERE FOR ALL PARENTS AS WE DEAL WITH OUR CHILDREN – NO MATTER HOW OLD OR YOUNG THEY ARE.**

**WORDS OF SUPPORT & ENCOURAGEMENT FROM A PARENT OR OTHER FAMILY MEMBER ARE SO ESSENTIAL TO OUR WELL-BEING.**

**I THINK AN EVEN MORE PROFOUND LESSON IN THE MOVIE, THOUGH – ONE THAT STRIKES AT THE HEART OF A BIBLICAL MESSAGE – IS THE WAY IN WHICH ALBERT WAS CHALLENGED TO DO SOMETHING THAT SEEMED TO BE COMPLETELY AT ODDS WITH WHAT HE WAS CAPABLE OF DOING.**

**IN THE PASSAGE WE READ THIS MORNING FROM EXODUS, WE FIND GOD CALLING MOSES TO PUBLIC SPEAKING – SOMETHING MOSES ARGUES IS THE ABSOLUTE LAST THING HE’S QUALIFIED TO DO!**

**WE KNOW THE STORY, THOUGH.**

**WE KNOW THAT GOD HAD A PLAN & WE KNOW THAT GOD WASN’T GOING TO LEAVE HIM ALL ALONE TO HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO OVERCOME HIS SHORTCOMINGS BY HIMSELF.**

**THE KING’S INABILITY TO SPEAK – HIS PROFOUND STUTTERING – SERVED TO MAKE EVERY SPEECH HE DELIVERED IN WARTIME ENGLAND FAR MORE PROFOUND, INSPIRING AND COURAGEOUS.**

**IF HE HAD BEEN AN ELOQUENT ORATOR, HIS SPEECHES WOULDN’T HAVE HAD NEARLY THE IMPACT THAT THEY DID.**



**IT WOULD SIMPLY HAVE BEEN EXPECTED OF HIM.  
IN ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL EXCHANGES IN  
THE MOVIE, LOGUE – THE THERAPIST – HAS  
INTENTIONALLY AROUSED THE WRATH OF THE NEW  
KING & GEORGE SHOUTS OUT – “*I HAVE A VOICE!*” –  
TO WHICH THE THERAPIST RESPONDS, “*YES, YOU DO.*”**

**IT’S A TURNING POINT & THE KING BECOMES  
MORE DETERMINED THAN EVER TO DO WHAT HE  
NEVER THOUGHT HIMSELF CAPABLE OF DOING.**

**AND IT’S THIS THAT LEADS ME TO THINK OF THAT  
OTHER MOVIE – THAT MOVIE THAT I CAN’T POSSIBLY  
ENCOURAGE YOU TO WATCH – THAT MOVIE THAT  
CONTAINS SOME OF THE MOST PROFOUND  
THEOLOGICAL LESSONS YOU’LL EVER SEE IN A  
SECULAR FILM.**

**PULP FICTION IS NOW MORE THAN 20 YEARS OLD,  
BUT REMAINS A CULT CLASSIC.**

**ALL YOU NEED DO IS CONSIDER THOSE WHO  
WERE INVOLVED IN THE MOVIE & YOU KNOW IT'S  
NOT GOING TO BE WARM AND FUZZY.**

**IT WAS DIRECTED BY QUENTIN TARENTINO AND  
STARS SAMUEL L. JACKSON, JOHN TRAVOLTA, BRUCE  
WILLIS, HARVEY KEITEL, UMA THURMAN,  
CHRISTOPHER WALKEN & TIM ROTH.**

**THE REASON I CAN'T RECOMMEND IT TO YOU IS  
BECAUSE YOU'D BE HARD-PRESSED TO FIND A FILM  
WITH MORE VIOLENCE, DRUGS, FOUL LANGUAGE &  
LURID BEHAVIOR THAN PULP FICTION.**

**WHILE I CAN GIVE YOU A SINGLE-SENTENCE  
SYNOPSIS OF THE KING'S SPEECH, I'M NOT SURE I**

**COULD GIVE YOU A SYNOPSIS OF PULP FICTION IN  
TEN MINUTES!**

**FOR ONE THING, THE CHRONOLOGY OF THE  
MOVIE IS SO CONVOLUTED THAT IT BOTH STARTS  
AND ENDS IN THE MIDDLE & THAT DOESN'T REALLY  
MAKE ANY MORE SENSE WHEN YOU SEE IT THAN  
WHEN YOU HEAR IT!**

**BUT HERE'S THE THING – PULP FICTION HAS AS  
PROFOUND A MESSAGE OF RELIGIOUS CONVERSION,  
FORGIVENESS, GRACE & REDEMPTION AS YOU'LL  
EVER SEE IN A MOVIE.**

**IT'S JUST NOT DEPICTED IN THE WAY WE  
ORDINARILY THINK OF THOSE THEOLOGICAL  
THEMES.**

**ASTOUNDINGLY, THOUGH, A VERY CLEAR  
CONNECTION CAN BE MADE BETWEEN THE LESSONS**

**OF THE KING'S SPEECH AND THE LESSONS OF PULP FICTION.**

**IF THE PRIMARY LESSON OF THE KING'S SPEECH CAN BE FOUND BY CONNECTING COLIN FIRTH'S STUTTERING KING GEORGE VI TO MOSES, THEN THE PRIMARY LESSON OF PULP FICTION CAN BE FOUND BY CONNECTING SAMUEL L. JACKSON'S UNDERWORLD HIT MAN JULES TO THE APOSTLE PAUL.**

**THE LAST PERSON IMAGINABLE TO BE INSPIRING AN ENTIRE NATION OF SLAVES IN EGYPT WAS MOSES & THE LAST PERSON IMAGINABLE TO BE INSPIRING A PEOPLE AT WAR WITH GERMANY WAS KING GEORGE VI.**

**THE LAST PERSON IMAGINABLE TO BE CONVERTED FROM A LIFE OF VIOLENCE & KILLING TO ONE OF FOLLOWING THE PATH GOD HAD CHOSEN**

**FOR HIM WAS THE APOSTLE PAUL & THE LAST PERSON IMAGINABLE TO BE CONVERTED FROM THE LIFE OF A PROFESSIONAL HIT MAN FOR A DRUG LORD TO ONE OF FOLLOWING THE PATH GOD HAD CHOSEN FOR HIM WAS SAMUEL L. JACKSON'S JULES.**

**LAST WEEK, I SAID THE CLOSING 7-10 MINUTES OF "COOL HAND LUKE" ARE *"AS RIDDLED WITH CHRISTIAN SYMBOLISM AS ANYTHING YOU'VE EVER SEEN IN A MOVIE."***

**SHOCKINGLY – PERHAPS ESPECIALLY FOR THOSE WHO HAVE SEEN THE MOVIE – I CAN SAY THE EXACT SAME THING ABOUT PULP FICTION.**

**TAKEN IN THE CONTEXT OF EVERYTHING ELSE THAT HAPPENS IN THE FILM, THE LAST 7-10 MINUTES ARE ABSOLUTELY RIVETING & INCREDIBLY**

**INSPIRING WHEN VIEWED FROM A CONTEXT OF FAITH.**

**EARLIER IN THE MOVIE, JULES & VINCENT (JACKSON & TRAVOLTA) HAVE AN EXPERIENCE AS HIT MEN THAT IS VIEWED VERY DIFFERENTLY BY THE TWO OF THEM – AN EXPERIENCE THAT CLEARLY EXPRESSES TWO DIFFERENT WAYS OF LOOKING AT LIFE.**

**A MAN BURSTS THROUGH A DOOR, STANDS NO MORE THAN 5 FEET AWAY FROM THEM, AND PROCEEDS TO UNLOAD A BARRAGE OF GUN BLASTS AT THEM.**

**NONE OF THE BULLETS HIT THEM, BUT HOLES ARE SEEN IN THE WALL BEHIND THEM.**

**IT WAS VIRTUALLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR EVERY BULLET TO HAVE MISSED.**

**JULES SEES THIS AS THE HAND OF GOD, WHILE VINCENT SEES IT AS SOMETHING THAT JUST *HAPPENED.***

**THEY ENGAGE IN A CONVERSATION ABOUT DIVINE INTERVENTION & WHAT CONSTITUTES A MIRACLE.**

**LATER, SITTING IN A DINER IN THOSE CLOSING 7-10 MINUTES OF POWERFUL CHRISTIAN SYMBOLISM, THE CONVERSATION IS RENEWED.**

**JULES REFUSES TO LET IT GO BECAUSE IT'S HAD SUCH A PROFOUND IMPACT ON HIM.**

**HE SAYS, “*MAN, I’VE JUST BEEN SITTING HERE THINKING ABOUT THE MIRACLE WE WITNESSED.*”**

**STILL SKEPTICAL, VINCENT SAYS, “*MIRACLE YOU WITNESSED. I WITNESSED A FREAK OCCURRENCE.*”**

**BUT JULES TURNS THIS INTO A THEOLOGICAL TEACHING MOMENT BY ASKING, “*WHAT IS A MIRACLE, VINCENT?*”**

**VINCENT PROPERLY RESPONDS, “*AN ACT OF GOD.*”**

**JULES PUSHES HIM – “*AND WHAT’S AN ACT OF GOD?*”**

**VINCENT REPLIES – “*WHEN GOD MAKES THE IMPOSSIBLE POSSIBLE. BUT THIS MORNING I DON’T THINK QUALIFIES.*”**

**ALREADY, CAN YOU IMAGINE THIS KIND OF DIALOGUE IN ANY MOVIE – LET ALONE A MOVIE THAT CAN’T POSSIBLY BE RECOMMENDED FOR VIEWING FROM THE PULPIT!?**

**BUT HERE’S WHERE THE REAL HEART OF THE MESSAGE COMES IN.**



**JULES (REMEMBER, THIS IS SAMUEL L. JACKSON PLAYING THIS CHARACTER) SAYS – “HEY, VINCENT, DON’T YOU SEE THAT STUFF DON’T MATTER? YOU’RE JUDGING IT THE WRONG WAY.**

***IT COULD BE GOD STOPPED THE BULLETS, HE CHANGED COKE INTO PEPSI, HE FOUND MY CAR KEYS. YOU DON’T JUDGE STUFF LIKE THIS BASED ON MERIT.***

***NOW WHETHER OR NOT WHAT WE EXPERIENCED WAS AN ‘ACCORDING-TO-HOYLE’ MIRACLE IS INSIGNIFICANT.***

***WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT IS I FELT GOD’S TOUCH. GOD GOT INVOLVED.”***

**AND FROM THERE, THE SYMBOLISM & THE INVOLVEMENT OF GOD IN JULES’ LIFE INTENSIFIES TO THE POINT OF BEING JAW-DROPPING.**

**WE'RE WITNESSING THE CONVERSION OF PAUL IN  
A MODERN-DAY SETTING – A MAN BREATHING  
THREATS & MURDER WHO IS KNOCKED TO HIS KNEES  
IN WHAT JULES CALLS “*A MOMENT OF CLARITY.*”**

**YOU SEE, IN THE SAME WAY THAT A POWERFUL  
SPEECH FROM A MAN WHO WAS A MASTER OF  
ORATORY WOULDN'T BE NEARLY AS MOVING AS  
HEARING THAT SAME SPEECH FROM A LIFE-LONG  
STUTTERER, SO TOO, A MAN WHO DECIDES TO  
FOLLOW THE PATH OF GOD WHO'S ALWAYS BEEN A  
FOLLOWER ISN'T AS MOVING AS A HIT MAN FOR A  
DRUG LORD DOING SO!**

**A DAMASCUS ROAD EXPERIENCE FOR PETER  
WOULD MEAN NOTHING TO US – HE WAS *ALREADY* A  
FOLLOWER OF CHRIST.**

**BUT WHEN IT'S PAUL – THE MOST HATED MAN IN  
CHRISTENDOM – IT TAKES ON AN ENTIRELY  
DIFFERENT LOOK.**

**IT SPEAKS TO US.**

**IT TELLS US THAT NO MATTER WHO WE ARE &  
WHAT WE'VE DONE, GOD CAN TOUCH US AND USE US.**

**NOW, I KNOW WHAT SOME OF YOU ARE THINKING  
AS WE MOVE CLOSE TO THE END OF THIS MESSAGE –  
*“I EXPECTED TO HEAR A SERMON ABOUT A VERY  
POWERFUL & INSPIRING MOVIE - CONNECTING THE  
KING'S SPEECH TO CHRISTIANITY. BUT WE'VE HEARD  
MORE TODAY ABOUT A MOVIE THAT'S JUST VILE &  
DISGUSTING.”***

**THAT MAY BE THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSON TO  
TAKE WITH US TODAY.**

**DIFFERENT THINGS SPEAK TO DIFFERENT  
PEOPLE.**

**FOR MOST OF US SITTING HERE TODAY, A MOVIE  
LIKE THE KING'S SPEECH IS GOING TO HAVE A  
POWERFUL IMPACT ON US.**

**IT'S CHALLENGING, IT'S INSPIRING, IT'S  
UPLIFTING, IT'S HEARTWARMING.**

**PERSONALLY, I THINK IT'S ONE OF THE FINEST  
MOVIES I'VE EVER SEEN.**

**BUT THERE ARE MANY OTHERS FOR WHOM THE  
KING'S SPEECH WOULD BE DREADFULLY BORING & A  
COMPLETE WASTE OF TIME.**

**BUT IT'S PRECISELY THAT SECOND GROUP OF  
PEOPLE WHO MIGHT FIND THE MOVIE & THE  
MESSAGE OF PULP FICTION TO BE AS POWERFUL,**

**INSPIRING AND CHALLENGING AS ANYTHING  
THEY’VE EVER SEEN.**

**WE MAY FIND THAT THERE ARE MORE IN *THAT*  
GROUP THAT WOULD INCLUDE PEOPLE MOST OF US  
WOULD TURN AWAY FROM, OR SHUN OR REJECT OR  
AVOID.**

**MOST OF US HAVE A TENDENCY TO RUN AWAY  
FROM PEOPLE LIKE THAT WHILE JESUS WAS  
CONSTANTLY CHASING *AFTER* THEM.**

**IN THOSE FINAL MINUTES OF GREAT SYMBOLISM,  
JULES SAYS TO VINCENT – “*IF MY ANSWERS FRIGHTEN  
YOU, VINCENT, THEN YOU SHOULD CEASE ASKING  
SCARY QUESTIONS.*”**

**AND ALL OF THIS MIGHT CAUSE US TO ASK SOME  
PRETTY SCARY QUESTIONS OF OURSELVES –**

**- QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR OPENNESS &  
ACCEPTANCE OF THOSE WHO ARE DIFFERENT FROM  
US -**

**- QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR TENDENCY TO THINK  
THAT OUR WAY OF LOOKING AT THE WORLD AND AT  
LIFE IS THE ONLY RIGHT WAY –**

**- QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR SPIRITUAL & SOCIAL  
ARROGANCE.**

**BOTH THE KING'S SPEECH AND PULP FICTION  
CONTAIN POWERFUL MESSAGES OF HOPE &  
CHALLENGE, BUT THEY ALSO FORCE US TO ASK  
SCARY QUESTIONS.**

**THEY FORCE US TO ASK IF WE'RE WILLING TO  
STEP OUT OF OUR COMFORT ZONE & EMBARK ON A  
JOURNEY TO DO SOMETHING WE NEVER THOUGHT  
WE COULD DO.**

**THEY BOTH TELL US THAT WHEN WE EMBARK UPON THAT JOURNEY, THE CHALLENGE WON'T BE EASY & THE TERRAIN MIGHT BE TOUGH, BUT WE'LL NEVER HAVE TO WALK THAT PATH ALONE.**

**IN YET ANOTHER PIECE OF POWERFUL SYMBOLISM IN PULP FICTION, IN THE CHRONOLOGICAL END OF THE MOVIE – NOT THE END THAT YOU SEE ON THE SCREEN WHILE WATCHING IT – THE FINAL SHOT IS THAT OF THE BRUCE WILLIS CHARACTER - HIMSELF A THIEF, A LIAR & A MURDERER, RIDING OFF WITH HIS GIRLFRIEND ON A MOTORCYCLE, HAVING FOUND REDEMPTION, FORGIVENESS & A RESTORED SENSE OF DIGNITY & INTEGRITY.**

**EMBLAZONED ACROSS THAT CHOPPER'S SIDE IS ITS NAME.**

**THEY'RE RIDING OFF TO A NEW LIFE ON "GRACE."  
NO MATTER WHO WE ARE, IT IS GRACE THAT  
SETS US OFF ON A NEW PATH, IT'S GRACE THAT KEEPS  
US GOING & IT'S GRACE THAT ENABLES US TO DO  
MORE THAN WE EVER THOUGHT WE POSSIBLY  
COULD. AMEN.**

*The Reverend Dr. Dennis R. Davenport  
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