

# ASBURY AT THE MOVIES

## SERMON NOTES

Week 3 July 23, 2023

### "Forrest Gump"

John 13:34; Ecclesiastes 5:5; Romans 8:28;  
Luke 12:15; II Corinthians 9:8; Galatians 5:13;  
Matthew 18:2-3



#### I. Introduction

- A. The soundtrack to the movie Forrest Gump sold over 12 million copies and the movie won \_\_\_\_\_ Academy Awards including best picture.
- B. Forrest is a very \_\_\_\_\_ man with a low IQ and the film follows several decades of his experience in 20th century America.

#### II. Life is Like a Box of Chocolates

- A. Forrest's mother says "Life is like a box of \_\_\_\_\_. You never know what you are going to get."
- B. When we are faced with choices in our lives, we should ask the question "what does \_\_\_\_\_ require of me?"

#### III. A Promise is a Promise

- A. Forrest \_\_\_\_\_ his friend Bubba he will go into the shrimp business with him after the war in Vietnam is over.
- B. As Christians if we make promises to someone or to God we are to \_\_\_\_\_ those promises.

#### IV. Finding Peace with God

- A. After years of being angry about losing his legs, Lieutenant Dan found \_\_\_\_\_ with God.
- B. God doesn't cause tragedy but God can bring beauty from the ashes. Our job is to put our \_\_\_\_\_ in Him.

#### V. Generosity

- A. Forrest says "Mama says there's only so much \_\_\_\_\_ a man really needs and the rest is just for showing off."
- B. Jesus says "life does not consist in an abundance of \_\_\_\_\_."

#### VI. Free Will

- A. Forrest is asking the age-old question "Is life following a predetermined course or is it \_\_\_\_\_?"
- B. Scripture says that we are not random, but we are not robots, either. God has a plan and purpose for your life, but he will not \_\_\_\_\_ us to follow his plan.

#### VII. Love Like Forrest

- A. Sometimes knowledge and sophistication can make us jaded and cynical. They can cause us to \_\_\_\_\_ faith.
- B. Forrest Gump, with his low IQ, is the one in the film who \_\_\_\_\_ the lives of those with whom he interacts.

# ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *July 24-29, 2023*

## INTRODUCTION

*Forrest Gump* is a 1994 movie based on the 1986 novel of the same name written by Winston Groom. The movie tells the story of Forrest Gump, a very kindhearted man with a low IQ. The film follows several decades of his experiences in 20<sup>th</sup> century America. So where does the movie point us toward scripture?

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### Monday: John 13:31-34

In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Forrest's mother says "Life is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get." We are all faced with various experiences in life that require us to make decisions. The underlying question to any decision we make is: "What does love require of me?" What would the answer to that question be in a decision you are trying to make now? What would the answer be for a major decision you have made in the past?

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### Tuesday: Ecclesiastes 5:5; Deuteronomy 31:1-6

In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Forrest promises his friend Bubba that he will go into the shrimp business with him after the war is over. Even though Bubba died in the war, Forrest kept his promise and started the shrimp business. How important to you is keeping your promises? Do you think it's important for Jesus followers to keep their promises? Why?

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### Wednesday: Luke 12:13-21

In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Lt. Dan invested Forrest's money from the shrimp business in Apple Computer. (Forrest calls it a "fruit company.") Forrest gives a lot of his money to the church and a hospital because "Mama says there's only so much fortune a man really needs and the rest is just for showing off." What stands out to you in the parable from today's reading? Do you have a plan to give some of your resources to build the kingdom of God?

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### Thursday: Genesis 3, Galatians 5:13

In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Forrest is asking the age-old question, "is life following a predetermined course? or is it arbitrary?" Based on what happens in Genesis 3, how would you respond to Forrest?

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### Friday: Matthew 18:2-3

In the movie *Forrest Gump*, Forrest has a low IQ and it may lead us to feel sorry for him. But, Forrest is the one in the film who redeems the lives of those he interacts. Sometimes knowledge and sophistication can make us jaded and cynical. They can cause us to lose faith. What do you think Jesus means in v. 3? Do you have a childlike faith or do you think everything needs to be explained for you to believe it?

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## MOVING FORWARD

Forrest's mother says "Life is like a box of chocolates. you never know what you are going to get." We are all faced with various experiences in life that require us to make decisions. The underlying question to any decision we make is: "What does love require of me?" Forrest seems to always do the most loving thing and so should we. Despite his disability, Forrest is the one who redeems the lives of those he interacts with. As Jesus followers, we should do the same for others in our sphere of influence.

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*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) six, B) kindhearted. IIA) chocolates, B) love. IIIA) promises, B) keep. IVA) peace, B) trust. VA) fortune, B) possessions. VIA) arbitrary, VIB) force. VIIA) lose, B) redeems.*