



ASBURY AT THE MOVIES

SERMON NOTES

Week 2 July 14, 2024

“Oppenheimer”

Jeremiah 33:3, 1 Samuel 15:3, Matthew 12:3-4; Philippians 2:5-8

I. Introduction

- A. The question the movie *Oppenheimer* is asking is: “If you had the power of life and death in your hands, how would you _____ it?”
- B. The movie *Oppenheimer* was a critically acclaimed movie and it was a tremendous _____ success.

II. Fission and Scripture

- A. We need to listen for God’s voice to determine our _____ in life.
- B. “Just War” theory is a doctrine of military ethics that aims to ensure that a war is _____ justifiable through a series of criteria, all of which must be met for a war to be considered just.
- C. Situational _____ proposes that people could break conventional moral rules in certain situations, providing it was for a loving motive.

III. Control, Fear, and Trust

- A. As Christians, we need to remember that God is in _____.
- B. God came down in human form and emptied himself of _____ and extended love to us.
- C. We have to decide daily whether we _____ God with the fears that we face.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *July 15-20, 2024*

INTRODUCTION

The movie *Oppenheimer* follows the life of J Robert Oppenheimer, a theoretical physicist known as the father of the atomic bomb. *Oppenheimer* is more than a biographical movie; it is a movie about the human condition because it points to the fact that we are all seeking a way to control the world around us. The question the movie is asking is this: "If you had the power of life and death in your hands, how would you use it?" That's the predicament Oppenheimer found himself in. So as Christians, how do we respond when life is in the balance?

Monday: John 10:1-6

As a young man, Oppenheimer was struggling at Cambridge studying experimental quantum physics. He was finally encouraged by a visiting lecturer to pursue theoretical physics instead. And the rest, as they say, is history. Do you struggle with finding the right path or vocation in life? As Christians, we need to listen for God's voice to move in a divine direction. How does God speak to you? Do you take time to listen?

Tuesday: I Samuel 15:1-3, Matthew 5:43-48

The movie *Oppenheimer* tells the story of making the first atomic bomb during World War II. Some thought that this war would be the war to end all wars; but as we know that is not the case. So how should Christians view war? Did God really tell the Israelites to kill all the men, women, and children of the Amalekites? How can you reconcile that with what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount? What is your stance on war based on your beliefs?

Wednesday: Matthew 12:1-8

The movie *Oppenheimer* is asking this question: "If you had the power of life and death in your hands, how would you use it?" Some people argue that we saved lives by dropping the bomb and ending WWII. Others say it is never moral to kill innocent people. Situational ethics proposes that people could break conventional moral rules in certain situations, providing it was for a loving motive. Do you think this applies to dropping the atomic bomb?

Thursday: Philippians 2:5-8

Jesus could have used his power to destroy Rome but he didn't. Instead, Jesus chose to empty himself of power and save the entire world by dying on the cross. Do you know what that teaches us? It teaches us that we don't have to trust in kings, power, or politicians. We can trust in God. What areas of your life do you need to trust God in the midst of your fears?

Friday: Ephesians 4:29-31

In the movie *Oppenheimer*, Admiral Lewis Strauss resents Oppenheimer for various reasons, so he comes up with a plan to destroy his reputation and career. Are there people in your life that you have resented and tried to get even with? What would have been a better response based on our scripture passage today and the teachings of Jesus?

MOVING FORWARD

As Christians we believe that God is in control. By contrast, the world's response is to just build bigger bombs and believe we will be in control when we have more power than anyone else. Christians believe that God came down in human form and emptied himself of power and extended love to us. And, therefore, he is worthy of our trust. We may never have the power to decide on dropping a bomb on millions of people, but we have to decide daily whether we trust God with the fears that we face. So, what's the area of your life that you are trying to control?

*Answers to the sermon notes: IA) use, B) commercial. IIA) direction, B) morally, C) ethics.
IIIA) control, B) power, C) trust.*