

GOD AT THE MOVIES

God at the Movies, Part 3: *THE AVENGERS*

Ed Noble, Lead Pastor // June 14 & 16, 2013

CONFLICT... all stories are *stories of conflict*.

► Why this works: *Life is a struggle, a conflict, a fight...*

For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

Ephesians 6:12

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Romans 12:21

Struggle to *know and do* good is one thing...

but there's also a temptation to *do good the wrong way*.

The "PERSONAL WAY" ...

- Trust some THING >> advantage, power over ... draws and escalates more evil
- Trust some ONE >> serve, sacrifice, bless ... draws good, finds blessing

The "PERSONAL WAY" ... *RESISTS evil*,

says "NO", is willing to pay the cost

The "PERSONAL WAY" ... is a TOGETHER WAY

Why NOT...?

- ✓ *Broken, jacked* up people
- ✓ "Unnatural" — we really like to have *our own way*.
- ✓ There's plenty of *evidence* and *experience* against it.

Why?

BUT... THE POTENTIAL — If we'll hang in there, God will bring out the *best me* in the midst of the *best US* ... we will have that *deeply satisfying* feeling of doing WAY MORE GOOD.

The "PERSONAL WAY" ... is a THIRD WAY

- The world is always presenting us with *false dichotomies*... "*either/or*"... "*if/then*"... these ways assume and live in the world of a "*Puny God*".
- Jesus was (and if we'll let him, IS) constantly showing that there is *another way, of a different kind, a 3rd and different way*... that God really is NOT puny.

The "PERSONAL WAY" ... is CROSS-SHAPED

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- ▶ Why this works: _____
_____...

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Romans 12:21

Struggle to _____ good is one thing...
but there's also a temptation to _____
_____.

The "PERSONAL WAY"...

- Trust some _____ >> advantage, power over ...
draws and escalates more evil
- Trust some _____ >> serve, sacrifice, bless ...
draws good, finds blessing

The "PERSONAL WAY"... _____,
says " _____ ", is willing to pay the cost

The "PERSONAL WAY" ... is a _____

Why NOT...?

- ✓ _____ up people
- ✓ "Unnatural" — we really like to have _____.
- ✓ There's plenty of _____ and
_____ against it.

Why?

BUT... THE _____ — If we'll hang in there, God
will bring out the _____ in the midst of the _____
... we will have that _____ feeling of
doing _____.

The "PERSONAL WAY" ... is a _____

- ▶ The world is always presenting us with _____
_____ ... _____ ...
_____ ... these ways assume and live in the
world of a _____.
- ▶ Jesus was (and if we'll let him, IS) constantly showing that
there is _____
_____ ...
that God really is NOT puny.

The "PERSONAL WAY" ... is _____