

“Saturdays at the Sculley’s” – “Joshua” starring Tony Goldwyn, F. Murray Abraham, Kurt Fuller, 2002, G, 91 minutes

Major themes:

- Christ figure
- Love
- Redemption
- Unity of the body of Christ
- Healing / miracles
- Hope
- Serving
- Prophecy / words of knowledge

Scriptures:

Mark 10:45 (NLT) – *“Even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

Romans 5:8 (NLT) – *“But God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners.”*

John 21:4 – 6 (The Message) – *“They caught nothing that night. When the sun came up, Jesus was standing on the beach, but they didn't recognize him. Jesus spoke to them: “Good morning! Did you catch anything for breakfast?” They answered, “No.” He said, “Throw the net off the right side of the boat and see what happens.””*

Psalms 145:9 (NLT) – *“The LORD is good to everyone. He showers compassion on all his creation.”*

Romans 8:19 – 28 (The Message) – *“The created world itself can hardly wait for what's coming next. Everything in creation is being more or less held back. God reins it in until both creation and all the creatures are ready and can be released at the same moment into the glorious times ahead. Meanwhile, the joyful anticipation deepens. All around us we observe a pregnant creation. The difficult times of pain throughout the world are simply birth pangs. But it's not only around us; it's within us. The Spirit of God is arousing us within. We're also feeling the birth pangs. These sterile and barren bodies of ours are yearning for full deliverance. That is why waiting does not diminish us, any more than waiting diminishes a pregnant mother. We are enlarged in the waiting. We, of course, don't see what is enlarging us. But the longer we wait, the larger we become, and the more joyful our expectancy. Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs, our aching groans. He knows us far better than we know ourselves, knows our pregnant condition, and keeps us present before God. That's why we can be so sure that every detail in our lives of love for God is worked into something good.”*

John 20:28 (NLT) – *““My Lord and my God!” Thomas exclaimed.”*

2 Chronicles 7:14 (NLT) – *“Then if my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sins and restore their land.”*

Mark 12:28 – 31 (The Message) – *“One of the religion scholars came up. Hearing the lively exchanges of question and answer and seeing how sharp Jesus was in his answers, he put in his question: "Which is most important of all the commandments?" Jesus said, "The first in importance is, 'Listen, Israel: The Lord your God is one; so love the Lord God with all your passion and prayer and intelligence and energy.' And here is the second: 'Love others as well as you love yourself.' There is no other commandment that ranks with these.””*

Major characters:

- Joshua
- Father Tordone
- Father Pat Hayes
- Maggie
- The Pope
- Theo

Discussion points:

1. Joshua seems to see each person as a treasure. He has a way of making them feel incredibly loved and special, yet is also completely honest with them. How does this challenge you in the way you relate to people?
2. Discuss what happens to us when we experience the presence of Christ. The Puritans talked about three ways to experience Him:
 - a. Christ's *essential presence* – Christ is everywhere present all the time. We are never far from Him, nor He from us. He is unavoidable.
 - b. Christ's *cultivated presence* – Christians can enrich their sense of fellowship with Him as we abide in Him day by day, faithfully obeying Him. We may cultivate a deeper knowledge of the Lord through Bible study and prayer. As we do, Christ shows Himself to be much more present in our lives than we had realized.
 - c. Christ's *manifest presence* – those times when God reveals His Son to a new generation of His people. He does so in such dramatic fashion that it almost seems as if Christ has been hiding from us until that moment. Then suddenly He reinserts Himself among us. He arrives. This encounter cannot be cultivated. It is a gift from the living God. It is an “awakening.” It must simply be received.
3. Joshua's presence is a catalyst for transformation in individuals, in the Church, and in the community. What stands out to you in the way this unfolds?
4. Father Tordone experiences a 180 in the way he views not only Joshua but himself and others. When love pierced his heart, what changed?
5. What kinds of fruit should we expect to see when the gifts of healing, miracles, prophecy, and words of knowledge are operating as God intended?

Love will come through, Love will revive and renew, I will be still and know,

Love is good and love is moving, Love is good and love is moving here