

Hacksaw Ridge

Movie Synopsis:

The true story of Pfc. Desmond T. Doss (Andrew Garfield), who won the Congressional Medal of Honor despite refusing to bear arms during WWII on religious grounds. Doss was drafted and ostracized by fellow soldiers for his pacifist stance but went on to earn respect and adoration for his bravery, selflessness and compassion after he risked his life – without firing a shot – to save 75 men in the Battle of Okinawa.

Redemptive Analogy:

This is a powerful story of a Christian war hero. Desmond Doss was a man who was moved by an unwavering faith in God to adhere to his biblical beliefs in the face of overwhelming opposition. As we relive The Battle of Okinawa, one of the bloodiest battles of World War II, this movie renews in us God's passion to see people saved. And by Doss' example, we learn how to do it – that we don't have to fight like everybody else does. Instead of taking life, we can save lives. As followers of Jesus, we are called to courageously share the life-giving message of salvation found in Him – and with His help, rescue as many people as possible for eternal life.

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Caution: This film has violent and graphic content.

INTRO before showing the movie:

This movie does show the true picture of war in a very graphic way and can make us so grateful for the time of peace we enjoy now in our part of the world. We can be so thankful for the many brave men and women who gave their lives so we can enjoy what we have today. May we never forget.

Hacksaw Ridge tells the true story about Desmond Doss – a boy who was born in 1919 and grew up in a devout Christian home in Lynchburg, Virginia, USA.

As we watch this movie, I hope that two things will happen: that we get a renewed passion for people, how we can come alongside them in their everyday

lives and help them think about their eternal destiny, and that we also learn something from the example of Desmond Doss of how to do it – that we don't have to fight like everybody else does. Instead of taking life – we can save lives.

TO SHARE AFTER THE MOVIE:

When the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor, like most of his friends, Desmond could not sit by and do nothing. Because of his faith in Christ, this bold young man took an unusual stance. Instead of taking lives, Desmond knew he was called to save lives. And I believe that is what God would want to remind all of us of today. In our toxic, dog-eat-dog culture where everyone picks sides and is so critical – even hateful to the others – I believe God is raising up a generation who will love people and embrace their calling to save lives – not take lives.

One of the most interesting parts of this story is the unusual stance that Desmond took. Because of his faith in Christ, Desmond decided that instead of taking lives, he would give his life to save lives. In truth – if you are a follower of Jesus Christ – you are called to do the same thing Jesus did. Jesus said:

For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost.
Luke 19:10

And we also read that we are called to:

...snatch others from the fire and save them. *Jude 1:23*

So what do we do? In 2 Timothy the Bible says:

Don't get involved in foolish, ignorant arguments that only start fights. The Lord's servants must not quarrel but must be kind to everyone. They must be able to teach effectively and be patient with difficult people. They should gently teach those who oppose the truth. Perhaps God will change those people's hearts, and they will believe the truth.
2 Timothy 2:23-25

A memorable line in the movie is in the courtroom scene when Desmond says, "With the world constantly trying to tear itself apart – it doesn't seem like a bad idea to me to put a little bit of it back together." And that's exactly what Desmond

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did. On April 1, 1942, Desmond Doss joined the United States Army as a medic and was deployed right in the middle of the war.

You know, watching this movie, one can't help but think about how to serve hurting people in the community and to reach people far from God. This is the solution to our broken world.

The Bible says:

When (Jesus) saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Matthew 9:36-38

Today the same is true. The harvest is plentiful. So many people are broken and hurting and need new life in Christ. But the workers are few.

This is the call of God on all of our lives – that wherever we are and whatever we do, we let God use us to make a difference. The world is so set on tearing itself apart – but with God's help, why don't we put a little bit of it back together? It won't be easy, though. In anything that really matters, there will always be a cost.

There is an enemy...and you can be certain that the enemy doesn't want us reaching people. In fact, he will do everything possible to stop us – distract us – or to get us to take our eyes off of our mission and on ourselves. Let's be clear – we are on a mission – we are in a fight for people's souls – and every person matters to God.

I pray that your passion for rescuing people is renewed. My hope is that you would get a fresh vision to do whatever it takes to reach lost people – to invest in those around you. Even right where you are – if you're teaching in a school – running a business – or getting your degree – I hope that you realize today that God has called us to reach the people around us. I think sometimes we can lose that passion – we only see the crowds – we forget – or we wonder if it really matters. But at the end of the day, it's *the only thing* that matters. Because the *only* thing that lasts forever is *people*. And that's why we don't need to get weary in going back – for one more.

So ask yourself – who do you know that needs a lifeline of hope thrown to them? Who do you know that needs God? Remember Paul says in Romans:

For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them? And how can anyone preach unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!” Romans 10:13-15

What if *you* are the beautiful feet that God has called to bring some good news of hope and life to someone who needs it?

The prophet Isaiah in the Old Testament realized that he was called by God to reach people:

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?” And I said, “Here am I. Send me!” Isaiah 6:8

Know this – God wants to reach one more. And if you’ll listen – right now God is asking, “Who can I send?” And maybe you’ll respond, “Here I am – send me.”

Closing prayer example:

Let’s pray together. Father, give us a passion and vision for the world around us. As we think about people we know and love, who don’t know God, people who need His grace – His love – His forgiveness..... God, our prayer is the same as Desmond. Please Lord – help us get one more. God I pray that we never get tired reaching those who are far from You. I pray that the Spirit prompts us— shows us – reminds us that we are the light of the world. Let us never live our lives simply ignoring others – but *saving* others! God help us reach the world around us.

And God, please be with those who feel *they* are the ones who need to be rescued. Bring people to them who can show them Your love and compassion

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and help them find their way to you. If you feel like that's you, you can pray with me now. It's simple. All you need to do is say, "Jesus, I want you to be in my life. I want you to save me and forgive me of my sins. I want you to be first in every single way. Today by faith I surrender my life to you. Amen." If that's your prayer today, God hears you. Jesus will make your life new. If you prayed that prayer today, I'd love to talk with you more about it.