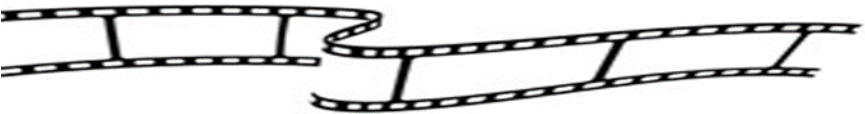


The Message Behind The Movie



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Forward

Inside many of our classic, most popular movies there is often a hidden gem. It is the story within the story. For example, from the movie – The Wizard of Oz, we delve into the meaning of HOME. From the movie – Angels in the Outfield, we contemplate our mortality. Whether or not you have seen the movie, examining these narratives and their associated insights promises to be an enriching and informative experience.

The initial paragraphs provide concise summaries of each film. Following these overviews, I examine the potential messages conveyed by the films. My analysis draws upon three key sources: external references, spiritual texts, and my own personal insights and experiences.

May this journey deepen your appreciation for the films you love and awaken new insights that resonate with your own story.

A Reflection of Kindness

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial

E.T.the Extra-Terrestrial (1982) © Universal Pictures (1)

E.T. is a wonderful movie about the friendship between an alien, by the name of E.T. (short for Extra Terrestrial), and a boy named Elliott. E.T. becomes stranded on earth, but fortunately, he is found by Elliott, who helps him to return home. However, Elliott is faced with a lot of obstacles in his attempt to help E.T.

Among the numerous challenges Elliott encountered, the most daunting was evading the relentless pursuit of government agents who were to capture and study E.T. The agents were always close on their heels, making it difficult for Elliott to find a safe, protected place for his alien friend.

Additionally, Elliott faced the challenge of communication barriers, as E.T.'s understanding of human language and technology was limited. This required Elliott to be resourceful and patient, often using creative methods to convey his plans. The secrecy necessary to protect E.T. also strained Elliott's relationships with his family and friends, who initially did not understand the gravity of the situation.

Moreover, the physical and emotional toll on both Elliott and E.T. were immense. As E.T.'s health deteriorated due to his prolonged stay on Earth, Elliott's determination was tested, pushing him to find ways to sustain E.T. and keep his hope alive.

Despite these obstacles, Elliott's unwavering loyalty and compassion ultimately triumphed, leading to a heartwarming conclusion that underscored the power of friendship and the resilience of the human spirit.

Ultimately, E.T. serves as a timeless reminder that empathy and compassion extend beyond barriers of nationality and appearances. By showcasing the profound bond between Elliott and E.T., the film inspires viewers to embrace and support those who may seem different, fostering a more inclusive and understanding world.

In our world today, kindness almost seems in short supply. I love how Paul reminds us of the teachings of Jesus: "And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" [Acts 20:35](#) ⁽²⁾ In this verse, there are no qualifications about whom to give it to. Especially as followers of Christ, we need to look for ways to give our time, money, encouragement, guidance - whatever might be needed, to whomever might need it. This includes immigrants, the homeless, coworkers, people of different race, beliefs and sexual orientation. Whatever might be needed, to whomever might need it. As a result, you will find that "It is more blessed to give."

Recently, I was feeling very discouraged due to so many things happening all at once, that put people outside of our nationality at risk. I reached out to a friend who gave me this wonderful advice... “Sharon, I know we’re in a very precarious time and so many people don’t even have a clue about what’s going on. I think we just have to keep doing our best and doing any small thing we can. The small things may seem insignificant, but they add up. Hang in there!!!”

My friends’ words encouraged me very much and reminded me that often actions speak louder than words. Plus the actions of many can speak even louder. Giving to organizations that give support to Ukraine, or other world relief agencies, is a step in the right direction. Most of us are on somewhat of a limited budget, but there is power in numbers. During the Super Bowl LIX 2025 Pregame Show, Brad Pitt gave a message about huddling together for good causes. He said, “We truly can make a difference if we huddle together, especially for good humanitarian efforts.”

Discouragement can definitely overcome us from time to time. However, small acts of kindness can accumulate to make a significant impact. If we HUDDLE together for humanitarian efforts, we truly can make a difference.



Inward Reflection

City Slickers

[City Slickers \(1991\) © Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer \(MGM\) ^{\(3\)}](#)

It's tax season again, and during this time we find ourselves forced to look at our spending habits. It can sometimes be an eye-opening experience to see some of the things that added up to be more than anticipated. Corporations have to do this on a regular basis to make sure their profit margins are in balance with what they need to spend to stay in business.

While financial statements are essential, regularly evaluating your personal wellbeing is even more critical. After all, maintaining your own health and capacity enables you to effectively support yourself and those who depend on you.

This of course means striving to take care of yourself in terms of exercise, eating right and getting enough sleep. However, sometimes this even means stepping out of your comfort zone and pursuing new ideas. The movie **City Slickers** is a great example. The story **City Slickers** focusses on three friends from New York City. They actually have a common bond; in that they are each experiencing a midlife crisis. So they decide to leave their urban lives behind to embark on a cattle drive in the Wild West. There were some literal rough and tumbles, but in the end they discover significant personal growth and fulfillment.

An even bigger picture than that, is what kind of legacy do you want to leave? For example, you would not want your epitaph to read – Here lies John, he left the oven on. Poor John, his life literally went up in smoke. Now he's resting with no one to provoke.

Here are two inspirational quotes from people who left a lasting legacy.

1. "When I stand before God at the end of my life. I would hope that I would not have a single bit of talent left and could say. I used everything You gave me." That came from a wonderful American columnist by the name of Erma Bombeck. Her humor columns were syndicated and reached millions of readers from [1965 until her death in 1996.](#) ⁽⁴⁾

2. "Now when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep." This is found in the first part of Acts 13:36, and it was written by the apostle Paul. Isn't that a wonderful way to summarize one's life? To serve others and then pass away! We know that David was not perfect, but he was "A man after God's own heart." ⁽⁵⁾ That is something we all can strive for.

As we reflect on these examples, take a moment to think about how you can use your unique talents and opportunities to make a positive impact. Your legacy is being built every day, with the choices that you make. May your inward reflection bring an outward appearance - of kindness to all.

A Reflection of Faith

Field of Dreams

Field of Dreams (1989) © Universal Pictures ⁽⁶⁾

The main character - Ray Kinsella, hears a mysterious voice whispering through the cornfield—(cue eerie tone) “*If you build it, he will come.*” At first, Ray is baffled. What does it mean? Who is “he”? Why build a baseball field in the middle of Iowa? Clue by clue, the message unfolds. Though it defies logic and makes no economic sense, Ray follows the call. That relentless voice leads him on a journey of obedience, risk, and redemption—one that not only revives his livelihood but also heals his broken relationship with his estranged father.

Ray’s story is more than a cinematic moment—it’s a parable of faith. He listens to a voice no one else hears, acts on a vision no one else understands, and sacrifices comfort for something unseen. That kind of faith is rare, and yet it echoes the spiritual journeys we read about in Scripture.

Faith is one of those powerful words that carries deep meaning across spiritual, emotional, and intellectual realms. For common day usage you might hear someone say phrases like- “I have faith in you” which equals trust in their ability to complete a task. Another example is “Acting in good faith”, meaning having honest intentions.

But faith is more than optimism or goodwill. It’s a spiritual posture—a willingness to trust in something greater than ourselves, even when the outcome is uncertain.

Hebrews 11:1 defines it this way: “Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.” ⁽⁷⁾

The Risk of Misplaced Faith

Faith is powerful—but it’s not neutral.

When we place our faith in something unstable, misleading, or ultimately unworthy, it can lead us down paths of disappointment, confusion, or even harm. The strength of our belief doesn’t guarantee the truth of what we believe in. That’s why Scripture and spiritual wisdom emphasize *where* we place our faith—not just *that* we have it.

Ray’s faith in *Field of Dreams* was not blind—it was persistent. He questioned, wrestled, and doubted, but he kept listening. And in the end, his obedience led to healing. It didn’t make sense at the time, but it bore fruit.

Biblical Echoes

Ray's journey mirrors many biblical stories:

- **Noah** built an ark before a single drop of rain fell. People mocked him, but he trusted God's voice.
- **David** faced Goliath with a sling and a stone, not because he was strong, but because he believed God would deliver.
- **Abraham** left his homeland, not knowing where he was going, simply because God said, "Go".

Each of these accounts demonstrates that maintaining faith is a fundamental principle, even when its rationale may not be immediately apparent.

An example in my own leap of faith, meant moving to Minnesota for a short season. In the building blocks of marriage, we were meeting our financial obligations and even bought a starter home. However, it soon became apparent that our dream of becoming parents was not going to be an easy road. I never wanted anything more in my life. Here I had based my career on taking care of children, and yet I was unable to have one of my own. I learned to take each day at a time, and with the support of my family, friends and husband, I was hanging in there. Sometimes, out of the blue, I would become an emotional basket case. It could be something as small as a baby commercial on television that would set me off, or a family reunion when I'd see cousins my age with two or more children of their own. I was always truly happy for others to experience the wonderful miracle of birth, but I just could not hide my inner passion to be in their place.

My prayers at night were becoming a time of plea bargaining with the Lord. I knew I should trust Him for an answer, but patience was not my virtue. I attended regular appointments with a local infertility specialist. Additionally, I took comprehensive measures to alleviate stress, as I was experiencing more frequent stress-related headaches and disruptions in sleep.

At the same time my husband was feeling displeasure in his work as a Production Supervisor at a dining facility for IU. He applied for a position with the Decora Kitchen Cabinet division of Aristocraft, located in Zumbrota, Minnesota. He got the job, and we made the big move. We rented a nice apartment in Elgin, Minnesota. It was a long cold winter. However, that was just what I needed as well as specialized treatment from the Mayo Clinic – Infertility Program.

After nine months in the position, my husband determined that it was not suitable, and we relocated back to Bloomington, IN. Soon after, I began to have episodes of being nauseous. I scheduled an appointment with my former gynecologist, and you guessed it...they pronounced those words that I was so longing to hear "Your test turned out positive, you are going to have a baby!"

A Personal Invitation

Field of Dreams invites us to ask:

What is God whispering to you in your own “cornfield”?

Is there a dream, a calling, a step of obedience that doesn’t make sense yet—but won’t leave your heart?

Faith doesn’t always come with clarity. But when we listen, trust, and build—even when it’s hard—we open the door to healing, purpose, and a “Field of Dreams” of our own.