

The Lord of the Rings, The Two Towers

by John VanSloten

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Two towers are all about the struggle between Good and Evil as it revolves around one's response to the allure, and temptation presented by the ring. Golum and Frodo offer two extremes in terms of responses; Frodo virtuous and Golum not!

What's going on in the film?

"The ring is a "psychic amplifier"... Illumines the state of your soul..."

"In Golum we see a soul bent on selfish ambition... While in Frodo we see the opposite... a soul steeped in selfless compassion for others"

"Evil is essentially selfish... Good essentially selfless"

"The battle is between pride and humility"

"Humility protects Frodo from the temptation of power.... making him the perfect ring bearer... perfect Saviour... one whom others could wholeheartedly trust!"

"In Golum we see a soul bent on accruing power... he chose to keep and use the ring for selfish gain... to be his and his only... His precious! Frodo responds in an opposite way, he passes on the power play and, instead, seeks to selflessly destroy the ring for the gain of others (so the whole of middle earth can be saved)..."

"Essentially this 'good vs. evil' battle is a 'selfish vs. selfless' battle... its about pride (the self filled with self) vs. humility (humble orientation that's all for others). Frodo was the right man for the job because he possessed more humility than any of the others.!"

"Humility protects Frodo from the temptation of power.... making him the perfect ring bearer... perfect Saviour... one whom others could wholeheartedly trust!"

What do we learn from this truth?

Same battle has played out for time eternal... The Human battle! ...plays out today in all of our relationships...

Between Countries

Companies

Spouses

Even our relationships with ourselves...

Battle is won or lost within our own hearts **how will we choose?**

"Will we make our choice for selfish gain or for the gain of others?"

"Will we do unto others as we would have them do unto us?" Jesus

will we **"Love our neighbours as we love ourselves?"** Moses

If we make the humble choice... to put other's first... then in best place to see evil destroyed!

Why?

1. Selfless humility is an expression of the true nature of love
2. If carried to its extreme this humility will lead to willing sacrifice

"The greatest expression of good is a love that's willing to sacrifice for others."

"Greater love has no one than this, that he lay his life down for his friends"

3. In LOR Frodo is the most exemplary in his humility (although he falls short)
4. In Christian story Christ is! And he does not fall short!
5. The ultimate expression of evil can only be destroyed by the ultimate expression of Good.
6. That expression finds its definition in an all powerful God (omni everything) being willing to humble himself to such an extent that he would make the ultimate sacrifice. (Even death on a cross) The greatest conceivable extreme of power taking the greatest conceivable step of humble sacrifice is the greatest statement of Good that can ever be imagined. Through Christ's sacrifice God offered us the greatest picture of love there is.
7. A statement like this destroys all evil... Like a flood.

As for Tolkien, some of his fans might be surprised to dis-cover how straight-forward he was on this point:

"The Lord of the Rings," he wrote in a letter to a friend, **"is of course a fundamentally religious and Christian work; unconsciously so at first, but consciously in the revision."**

Carpenter, Humphrey, The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston ; 1981; p. 172.

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