July 13, 2014   
Psalm 119:105-112   
At the Movies: Indiana Jones and the Bible

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Psalm 119:105-112 New Revised Standard Version

Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to observe your righteous ordinances. I am severely afflicted; give me life, O Lord, according to your word. Accept my offerings of praise, O Lord, and teach me your ordinances. I hold my life in my hand continually, but I do not forget your law. The wicked have laid a snare for me, but I do not stray from your precepts. Your decrees are my heritage for ever; they are the joy of my heart. I incline my heart to perform your statutes for ever, to the end.

It is summertime which is typically the time for blockbusters. We have been watching blockbusters at home, movies like Ghostbusters and Indiana Jones. We want to make sure our kids have a good movie education, you know, the movies that we grew up with. So, since it is summertime, we are going to experience Greenland Hills at the movies and see if Indiana Jones has anything to teach us about the Bible. Growing up I loved Indiana Jones. He was a good old-fashioned hero, with a whip and a hat. No capes to help him fly or laser beams out of his eyes. He goes all over the world in search of archaeological finds, and the world always ends up in danger, and Indiana Jones would save it.

As I was preparing for today, my kids were re-watching Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (the third movie) and my ten-year old daughter Madeleine said, “This movie has a lot to do about Jesus. It is about the Holy Grail.” The Holy Grail is the cup that Jesus supposedly drank from on the night of his betrayal and arrest. In the movie the Nazis are looking for the cup because they are hoping to gain world dominion through its power and Indiana Jones’ faith is put to the test. Indiana must use his dad’s archaeological book to unravel the mystery that leads to the Holy Grail, as well as stay alive.[[1]](#footnote-2) And Indiana Jones quickly figures out that his dad’s book is the key. The clip we are going to see is Indiana testing that key. He uses clues that his dad had written in the book to try to get the Holy Grail. His dad’s life is in danger and the Holy Grail is the only thing that can save his dad. So, Indiana Jones has to go through three challenges using his dad’s clues and notes from the book.

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade begin clip at 1 hour 44 minutes.

End clip at 1 hour 49 minutes.

During those nerve-rattling moments, Indiana Jones was completely dependent on the book his father gave him. When he takes that last leap of faith he has to obey it. The Bible is a book for us as Christians that guides our lives. Indiana Jones had three challenges, to solve the first one he had to humble himself before God and kneel. I remember at church camp one year when I was in high school, we practiced praying while kneeling. All week we prayed that way, and it really made me think about prayer differently. Prayer wasn’t something to do while I was doing something else, but prayer could be something where I worshipped God. Where I stopped what I was doing, got down on my knees and listened and gave thanks to God.

In Indiana’s second challenge he has to have knowledge. Some folks see the Bible as a rule book, but for me the Bible is a book about people who God works through to do amazing things. Reading the Bible teaches me more about the God who loves me. I read stories about people, some who make really bad choices, and yet God is able to redeem the situation and God’s love and grace shines through.

In Indiana’s third challenge he has to trust. The book tells him that everything will be okay, he just has to have faith, he just has to believe.

The Bible teaches me how to find God when life seems so hard. The Bible shows me how to have peace. In America there are more versions of the Bible, more study bibles, and more resources available to us than anywhere else in the world, and yet statistics show that we read less of the Bible than many other countries. God’s word is like sunscreen, it’s a lot more useful when you take it out and apply it. Reading the Scriptures can transform us, as we pray, as we learn, and as we trust. Because we get more out of the Bible when we let it get into us.

Psalms is the longest book in the Bible and is all about the importance of worshipping God. Psalm 119 is the longest psalm and the longest chapter in the entire Bible at 176 verses. It is an acrostic or alphabetic psalm. There are eight couplets beginning with each of the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet. It is literally the A to Z of God’s word. And this Psalm shows us the priority of God’s word to God and to us. The word of God should have top priority in our lives. When we read the Bible and when we study it, we seek and find God.

We were created to become more like Christ. May we understand God’s part in bringing us to spiritual maturity and may we realize our own responsibility in the process of growth. God’s word is a lamp for our feet, and a light for our path.

1. <http://www.thesource4ym.com/movieclipdiscussions/Discussion.aspx?id=233> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)