

A HERO UNAWARES

In typical “teacher movies” the teacher is the hero and the emphasis is on the change that occurs within the students: how the teacher impacts and transforms their lives.

But what drives “Mr. Holland’s Opus” is not so much the question: Will Mr. Holland work his magic and change the kids?

The question is: Will the kids be able to change Mr. Holland?

THE LESSONS MR. HOLLAND LEARNS

1. BEING _____ IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN BEING FREE.

Often, we identify being a man with being free – being able to do whatever we want and being able to control our own lives.

As guys get older, either they grow up and they become responsible, or they become fixated on their freedom, and they remain _____.

Milan Kundera: The heavier the burden, the closer our lives come to the earth, the more real and truthful they become. Conversely, the absolute absence of burden causes man to be lighter than air, to soar into heights, take leave of the earth and his earthly being, and become only half real, his movements as free as they are insignificant. What then shall we choose? Weight or lightness?

JESUS SAID THERE ARE TWO WAYS TO LIVE.

John 10.11-13: I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep. So when he sees the wolf coming, he abandons the sheep and runs away. Then the wolf attacks the flock and scatters it. The man runs away because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

The hired hand is free to run off when the wolf comes because he has no sense of _____ for the sheep.

Once you own something, it begins to own you – so some guys never really “own” anything because they think that’s how they will remain free.

They aren’t shepherds in the most important parts of their lives, so when the wolf comes, they are free to run away.

But true freedom isn’t being able to do whatever you want to do.

Real freedom is _____ to do what you should do.

And if you don’t want to do what you should do, you do it anyway, because you’re a man – and to a man being responsible and fulfilling his _____ are more important than some childish idea of what it means to be free.

Question: Are you a hired hand or are you a shepherd?

Hired hands are safe and free, but they are never _____ because when the wolf comes, they run away.

2. PEOPLE MATTER _____.

One thing we guys have to get straight: life is about _____ and people matter more than our accomplishments, our work and our possessions.

Everyone has hopes and hurts; everyone wants to be good at something; everyone needs to believe he has something special to give.

People carry burdens and pressures and live with fears and needs and insecurities that we don't know anything about.

And everyone _____ someone who will listen to him, believe in him and help him.

And there's nothing more important we can do with our lives than help others because people matter most.

At the center of all that is, there is the _____ who says people matter.

3. LITTLE MOMENTS MAKE A _____ LIFE.

John Lennon: Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans.

Most often what makes a big life are little acts – small investments – repeated over and over.

Greatness isn't created by one huge hit, one big success or a one-time flash of brilliance.

True success in every important area of life doesn't go to the fastest starter or to the person with the greatest intellect or the most talent or the most charming personality.

Big lives are created not when we have one big moment, but when we continue to be _____; and when we continue to invest our lives in the things that matter, even when they're small, even when they're not noticed or appreciated.

Big things happen in little places and in little ways and in little moments.

And great _____ are the harvest we reap when over a lifetime we invest our lives time and time again in the things that matter most.

Long-term success usually goes to the person who does the right things, even though they're small, time after time after time.

Matthew 25.34-40: Then the King will say to those on his right, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.”

Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?”

The King will reply, “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

Honduras Mission Trip: November 3-6

Go to www.thewoodlandsumc.org. Click on Missions, then Global Missions/find a trip to register.