



Devotion

July 2, 2023 Message Notes

TEXT: JOHN 1:1-18

How does the saving truth of Jesus intersect with the popular stories of our culture? Today's featured film, Devotion, tells the real life story of naval aviators, Tom Hudner and Jesse Brown. These two men showed true devotion to one another in service and in friendship. They led their lives with character and in a manner that matched the value of their calling.



NOTES

How does the saving truth of Jesus intersect with the popular stories of our culture?

All truth is God's truth, but not all truth is saving truth.

"Whatever your faith may be or my faith may be, it seems to me inseparable from the story of what has happened to us, and that is why I believe that no literary form is better adapted to the subject than the form of fiction." – From the essay *"Faith and Fiction"*, by Frederick Buechner

The movie, *Devotion*, tell the real life story of naval aviators, Tom Hudner and Jesse Brown

"There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends."

John 15:13

"A real friend sticks closer than a brother."

Proverbs 18:24

These two men showed true devotion to one another in service and in friendship.

They led their lives with character and in a manner that matched the value of their calling.

The real battle in life is being someone that other people can count on, and you earn that with a lifetime of showing up.

Live with character, which means showing up the same way every time over time. Character earns trust. It takes a lifetime to build and a second to lose.

"And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don't panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won't follow immediately. Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come."

Matthew 24:6-8

The war of sin will continue to rage on, but the good news of Jesus is that He has secured our victory on the cross. We know how sin's war will end.

Invite the Lord to lift our eyes above the signs of the times to keep focused on our mission.

What is our mission?



“For the Son of Man came to seek and save those who are lost.”

Luke 19:10

There’s a difference between showing up your way for someone and then showing up in a way that another person needs.

“People aren’t problems to be solved. People are mysteries to be explored.” – Eugene Peterson

Am I showing up for others my way or based on what they need?
You might be doing a good work, but it might not be the right work.

Who in your life needs you to join them in their suffering?

Do you know what you need? Have you clearly expressed your need to someone who wants to help you?

Tom showed that he would do anything to meet Jesse’s need, including risking his own life to save Jesse.

This is what our world experienced in Christ Jesus!
Sin crashed our lives and left us ruined, but our God showed his great love for us by sending his Son to rescue us from certain death behind enemy lines.

“So the Word became human and made his home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen his glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.”

John 1:14

The difference between Christianity and every religion in the world is: religion reaches up to God, but Christianity believes that God reached down.

On the cross, Jesus received all our sin and all our shame to buy our lives back from death. His rescue is available for us all.

Have you received it?

“Don’t let anyone capture you with empty philosophies and high-sounding nonsense that come from human thinking and from the spiritual powers of this world, rather than from Christ. **For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body.** So you also are complete through your union with Christ, who is the head over every ruler and authority.”

Colossians 2:8-10



Guard your heart against those who say that you can reach up or reach within. It's all nonsense.

Tom's devotion to Jesse echoes God's devotion to us.

God demonstrated his ultimate mission when he came to us in Christ to bring us home.

Jesus invites us to share the pathway of his salvation with others.

"What's the most important thing?" "Bring 'em home."

Bring the lost home. Forget the life preserver. Get in the water.

