

The Devil's Advocate

The Lies that Define Our Times

ser3956 God in the Movies, Pt4 July 26, 2020

As always, I'm very happy to be here with you in God's house this morning.

I have to tell you, when we decided a few months ago to give a sermon series called "God in the Movies", I couldn't have been more excited.

You see, I'm a huge movie buff, and to be honest, I love movies so much that I don't even call them movies...I call them FILMS! And I don't go to the movie theater ...I go to the cinema!

Right away my mind started racing, trying to pick the coolest movie to write a message around.

Maybe I can do something on Star Wars or Dawn of the Dead or Inception...my mind went on and on!

But there was one movie that kept popping into my mind that I felt connected with. I believed it could give us insights into the world in which we are living today. And that was the 1997 movie, ***The Devil's Advocate***.

This movie starred Al Pacino, Keanu Reeves and Charlize Theron and even though it is an excellent film, anyone who saw it would probably wonder how I could use such a disturbing movie in my sermon. It really is not a family movie.

But the movie is disturbing only because it is about disturbing things. Namely, Satan and sin. This movie, in my opinion, does not glorify sin like so many others do, but rather exposes it as the tool of the enemy and shows that sin has consequences. But what is most intriguing to me is this: Why did Hollywood get this one right?

Why is it that every now and then there will be a movie like *Devil's Advocate* or *Event Horizon* or *The Book of Eli* that demonstrates the truth of sin, the reality of Hell and the power of God's word and they sometimes do it with amazing Biblical wisdom?

I believe it's because, deep down, they know the truth...THEY KNOW. But, I believe that the fantasy world in which these entertainers live, with all the stardom and wealth and power, pushes them to be willfully ignorant to the truth. It seems that sometimes God uses the world...to condemn the world.

Romans 2:15 *"They (the unbeliever) show that the requirements of the law are written on their hearts, their consciences also bearing witness, and their thoughts sometimes accusing them and at other times even defending them.)"*

The truth is, every human being in the world has an inborn knowledge of God and His truths, but the enemy of this world presses down on us, pressuring us to follow our fleshly nature rather than our Godly potential in life, and that's what this movie was about to me.

PLOT SUMMARY
SPOILER ALERT

Kevin Lomax, played by Keanu Reeves is a ruthless young Florida attorney who never lost a case, no matter how guilty his clients were. It is obvious that he holds some degree of guilt concerning these acquittals, particularly having been raised by a strict, Bible quoting, Christian mother. However, the more cases he wins, the more money he earns and the more famous he becomes – and that causes his vanity and self-worth to become more important to him than his Christian upbringing.

Kevin is sought out by a very large law firm from New York which hires him to join their law firm, headed by John Milton, played by Al Pacino.

Unknown to Kevin is that Milton is actually...Satan. So, Kevin and his wife Maryanne, played by Charlize Theron, move to New York and begin living their new lives of wealth and prestige.

Soon however, Maryanne becomes homesick as she never sees Kevin anymore due to his new high-profile murder case. She starts to see demonic apparitions appearing before her eyes as Satan tries to taunt her with dark visions.

Satan's goal, we are led to believe, is to get Marianne out of the way by ruining their marriage through loneliness, depression, anxiety and eventually suicide.

We find out at the end of the movie that the reason Milton wanted Kevin in New York in the first place is that Kevin is his son. Milton wants him to father the antichrist to expedite the battle of Armageddon before the millennium begins, instead of after.

Hidden Themes

There are many well thought out and purposefully placed biblical themes throughout the movie. There are little things like this: Milton and Kevin are walking the streets of New York. There is a man behind them carrying a box of bulbs, holding them over Kevin's head. They are "Halo Lights" and a cross appears behind them.

Another one is at the beginning of the film. Milton and Kevin are at the top of Milton's office building. He, being Satan, is promising money, clients, and power to Kevin if he joins his firm. This was a deliberate reference to the temptation of Christ in Matthew 4:8 where Satan took him to a mountain and showed him all the cities of the world and promised it to him if he bowed down to him.

But it is at the end of the movie where we really see the devil expose his tactics to Kevin and it all begins with a simple question. Take a look.

Kevin Lomax asks, "Who are you?" Milton answers, "Aaaah...I have sooo many names".

Kevin then asks, "Satan?" and Milton makes a face and says, "Just call me Dad."

"What are you?" Kevin asks. Milton replies, "I have soooo many names".

And Satan does. The very name Satan means "Adversary". But this was not his original name.

His original name was Lucifer. It is a Latin word, lux = light, fero= to bring, or light bearer.

But after the fall of man, he was never referred to as this again. Instead, he was given thirty different titles or aliases that are mentioned 174 times in the Bible. All of them are bad.

Satan's Titles:

- Adversary
 - Devil
 - Accuser
 - Serpent
 - Lawless One
 - Liar
 - Deceiver
 - Enemy
 - Tempter
 - Evil One
 - Thief
 - Father of Lies
 - Wicked One
 - Prince of the Power of the Air
 - Beelzebub
 - Ruler of the Darkness
- and more...

We must realize the enemy has these names, not for prestige, but because they all describe his tactics.

He is a liar. He is a thief. He is a tempter. He is a deceiver. And this deceiver uses our intellect as a tactic against us. He uses

our racial differences against us. He uses our freedoms, and even our own system of government, against us.

And this movie exposes this truth!

Kevin asks him another question, “Why the law?”

Satan says this...

“The law, my boy, puts us into everything. It’s the ultimate backstage pass. It’s the new priesthood, baby! Did you know there are more students in law school than lawyers walking the earth? We’re coming out, guns blazing! The two of you, all of us, acquittal after acquittal after acquittal – until the stench of it reaches so high and far into heaven, it chokes the whole lot of them!”

And this is true. Satan uses things like our system of laws against the furthering of God’s kingdom. Law itself has become a demonic tactic.

The first clause in the Bill of Rights, known as the Establishment Clause, is what we commonly call The Separation of Church and State. This clause states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free practice thereof”. In 1947, nine Supreme Court Justices interpreted this clause to mean that instead of religion being protected against the laws of the state, there was to be no involvement of religion in the state.

In other word, in 1947 America became a secularist nation. From there, just 5 years later, then Senator, Lyndon Johnson wrote an amendment in our tax laws which forbade pastors to speak

politics from the pulpit. The establishment clause was used to stifle the voice of the church.

From there it moved to no prayer or Bibles in public schools. It then went to removing the Ten Commandments from the public square. This included the courthouses that were sworn to protect those very things. Now they are trying to remove the reference to God even from our currency.

These changes toward the secularization of America have weakened the morality of our nation. They led to the 1973 law, called *Roe v. Wade*, which declared the murder of millions of babies in the womb to be an American right!

Not only was the Christian Church legislated to have no voice in matters of life and death but even in God's institution of marriage. In 2015, the Supreme Court ruled that marriage was no longer defined as between a man and a woman and to speak out otherwise is now legally deemed hate speech.

In today's Christian America, it is now illegal to celebrate Christmas as the birth of Christ in public schools, or even to have a nativity scene on our own public property!

All of this is because the enemy has twisted the meanings of the words of our nation's forefathers in the same way he twists the meaning of the words of our Heavenly Father. Why? Because Satan hates God. And because God loves us, Satan hates us even more.

When I look at the world today, I see the enemy's fingerprint all over the chaos and hatred that is pouring out across our streets. I

see those who use violence as an excuse to stop violence. I see hatred as an excuse to stop hatred. I see a generation who is ungrateful for what they have been given, only because they listen to the voice of the one who says, "You don't have enough, you deserve more".

Why can't we see that this is the same lie the serpent told Adam and Eve in Genesis Chapter 3? He told them they deserved to have the fruit of the forbidden tree. He told them that they were being wronged. "You're being held back by 'the man'. It's time to step up and take what is yours!" That is another line from *The Devil's Advocate*.

Finally, here is the last scene from *The Devil's Advocate*.

Satan here is arguing that God is actually the one who is evil. But as the movie accurately demonstrates right after this scene, Satan had no care for Kevin as he has no care for us. He is using Kevin to get what he wants and then is going to take his life as soon as Kevin's worth is over.

The truth is...only God sees the eternal worth of man. He is truly the FAN OF MAN.

2 Thessalonians 3:3 *"But the Lord is faithful, and he will strengthen you and protect you from the evil one."*

In the end of the movie God saves Kevin because Kevin took the step of faith toward God that He needed to take.

All the words his mother spoke to him as a child had an impact on his heart. Kevin, through the power of God's Word, was

victorious.

And you can be victorious, too. You see, God gave us a victor. His name is Jesus. And he has many names, too:

- Deliverer
- Good Shepherd
- King of Kings
- Lord of Lords
- Light of the World
- Mighty One
- Risen Lord
- The Resurrection and the Life
- Wonderful Counselor
- Prince of Peace

So many names and unlike the devil, **His names are all good.**