

Journey of Faith – Weeks 3 & 4

Exploring Your Faith Journey through Film

Welcome to the second phase of the first Speaker Series program of 2020-21. The program developed and offered by Lora Pateras is based on the *Principle and Foundation of the Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola, which you have been praying with for the past few weeks. (Haven't done that yet? It's not too late! See the website for phase 1!) Next up is finding how what we've learned about our own faith journey from the Principle and Foundation can connect to and be continued by viewing a film.

"Oh Brother Where Art Thou" (Dir. by the Coen Brothers Release Date: December 22, 2000)

This 1 hour 42 min. film can be viewed for free on IMDB at the link below or by searching the title on IMDB.com. You will need to create a login and password but there is no charge.

<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0190590/>

DVD's of the film can also be found at the Cincinnati Public Library. Streaming is free with Amazon PRIME.

There will be a virtual opportunity to discuss the film and your reflections at the third phase of our program on Oct. 18.

Some Quick Context to Read Before Watching the Film:

About the Film: This film is loosely based on the Odyssey and set in the rural south during the Depression era: "*O Brother* is set in the Great Depression, when antagonism between the government and its citizens, between the haves and have-nots, was starker and more open than at any time since the Civil War. Its episodic plot can be understood the same way the hard-knock Christianity of its old gospel songs teaches us to understand life—as a series of moral trials."¹ The film is rated PG-13 (there is some language and racial issues). Genre? "semi-musical, semi-satirical, semi-historical, semi-mythological and completely brilliant comedy."²

About the Directors: "Almost all the Coens' comedies are set against the backdrop of an American crisis.... Ultimately, the Coens' latest film [*Oh Brother Where Art Thou*] endorses those old American ideals...the solidarity of the oppressed, resistance to abusive power, and the embrace of a universal brotherhood that transcends race."³

As You Watch the Film and Beyond

You may want to have a notepad and pen/pencil next to you while you watch the film so that when you feel a reaction to something or have an insight, you can jot it down. Here are some questions for you to consider/reflect on during and after the film:

1. As you watch the film, notice the Journey of Faith of each of the characters. What is your Journey of Faith like? Are you content with it?
2. Just as the characters get distracted from their purpose in life, we can do the same. What is helpful for you to keep doing to get closer to God? If there is something distracting, or even positive, pulling you away from God, what is something healthy you can put in its place to redirect you?
3. What else in the film connected or stayed with you?

¹ Review by [Rob Content](#), [Tim Kreider](#), and Boyd White (11.19.01) This review originally appeared in *Film Quarterly*, Vol. no. 55, issue no. 1, (Fall 2001). <http://www.lipmagazine.org/articles/revicontent_147.shtml>

² Review by Buckmaster, Luke. "O Brother, Where Art Thou? Revisiting the Glory and Silliness of the Coen Brothers' Classic." *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 18 June 2020, www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/jun/19/o-brother-where-art-thou-revisiting-the-glory-and-silliness-of-the-coen-brothers-classic.

³ Review by [Rob Content](#), [Tim Kreider](#), and Boyd White (11.19.01) This review originally appeared in *Film Quarterly*, Vol. no. 55, issue no. 1, (Fall 2001). <http://www.lipmagazine.org/articles/revicontent_147.shtml>