

Shadowlands (1993): A Discussion

Biblical Concepts in Movie:

Problem of pain; attributes of God; faith and prayer; God's will; human will; prayer; and trust.

Scripture to Read Before Movie:

Psalm 1: 5: 1-3; Matt. 6: 7-8; John 14: 13-14; Col. 4:2; James 1: 6-9; 1 John 5: 14-15.

1. The movie is more than a love story; it is a theological one. How so?
2. When does the story take place?
3. What does the title refer to—"shadowlands"? Discuss.
4. What does "theodicy" mean? Why does God give us "the gift of suffering"? Where does the Bible express this idea? C. S. Lewis (Anthony Hopkins) says, "It is because God loves us that he makes us the gift of suffering. The blows of His chisel that hurt us so much are what makes us perfect."
5. Why does Lewis at first reject this kind of thinking about suffering making us "perfect"?
6. If you love someone, you want to take that person's suffering upon yourself. Why doesn't God feel this way, asks Lewis? Neither Lewis nor the movie seem to know how to answer this question. How do you answer this question?
7. What does the Latin prayer said by Lewis mean: "**Vindictus Vindicat Iesum Christum Dominum Nostrum. Amen.**"
8. "The world is like a picture with a golden background, and we the figures in the picture. Until you step off the plane of the picture into the large dimensions of death you cannot see the gold." (*The Problem of Pain* by C. S. Lewis).