

BUILD IT & HE WILL COME!

ILLUSTRATION:

Movie: FIELD OF DREAMS (strange movie)

A Midwest farmer (played by Kevin Costner) is an avid baseball fan. He dreams of his childhood and the times that he went to see the "baseball greats" play. Through his fantasy he has a premonition.. It becomes an obsession. Somehow he becomes convinced that he must bulldoze part of the cornfield beside his house and build a regulation baseball diamond, complete with night lighting and bleachers. The premonition that he has is simple, "Build it, and they will come.." --- Sure enough once the bleachers are done and the corn is high all around the ball field, one by one the baseball greats come out of the high surrounding the ball diamond and play for Costner and his family to see.."

The best movies are simply copies of Biblical stories that contain eternal themes:

- 1) A person who is innocent and righteous comes up against a person who is powerful and evil and against all odds "defeats the giant" (David & Goliath)**
 - **Movies: Die Hard Series, Enemy of the State...**
- 2) A righteous person finds, saves and gives their life to rescue another (Jesus)**
 - **Movies: Titanic, U-571, Vertical Limit, T**

These movies capture our imagination..

- **because the principle being demonstrated is powerful and BIBLICAL!!**

THE PRINCIPLE:

"IF YOU INVEST YOUR TIME AND ATTENTION IN A GOD DREAM, IT WILL HAPPEN!"

"IF YOU MAKE ROOM FOR GOD.. YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR GOD TO LEAD AND EMPOWER IT"

"IF YOU BUILD ROOM (a house) FOR GOD... HE WILL COME! (and live in it)"

What happens when you build your own HOUSE and not HIS...

(Haggai 1:3-11) 3 Then the word of the LORD came through the prophet Haggai: **4 "Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your paneled houses, while this house remains a ruin?"** 5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: **"Give careful thought to your ways. 6 You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough.** You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it." 7 This is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. 8 Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and **build MY house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honored,**" says the LORD. **9 "You expected much, but see, it turned out to be little. What you brought home, I blew away. Why?" declares the LORD Almighty. "Because of my house, which remains a ruin, while each of you is busy with his own house.**

10 Therefore, because of you the heavens have withheld their dew and the earth its crops. 11 I called for a drought on the fields and the mountains, on the grain, the new wine, the oil and whatever the ground produces, on men and cattle, and on the labor of your hands."

- **THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL HAVE MOVED BACK TO THE HOLY LAND**
 - o **THEY WERE WORKING ON THEIR OWN STUFF.. MAKING THEIR HOUSES COMFORTABLE AND ATTRACTIVE..**
- **THEY WERE NOT BEING BLESSED!**
 - o **THEY HAD LITTLE TO SHOW FOR ALL THAT THEY HAD DONE... WHY?**
- **THEY WERE BUILDING THEIR OWN HOUSE WHEN GOD'S HOUSE WAS IN RUIN**
 - o **GOD GIVES THEM AN IMPORTANT PRINCIPLE:**
 - o **IF YOU BUILD IT, I WILL COME!**

WE REALLY HAVE TWO CHOICES

(Luke 16:13) **No servant can serve two masters:** for either **he will hate the one, and love the other;** or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. **Ye cannot serve God and mammon.**

- WHAT IS GUIDING YOU?
- IS YOUR GOAL TO BECOME PROSPEROUS AND SELF-SUPPORTING
 - o OR – IS YOUR GOAL TO BE OBEDIENT TO THE LORD
 - TO LIVE THE LIFE THAT GOD CREATED YOU FOR

THE IDEA OF “KINGDOM” APPLIES..

- WHO WILL LEAD YOU...
 - o Will it be the GOAL OF PROSPERITY or the GOD OF PROSPERITY

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NOT AN IDEA = IT IS A LITERAL KINGDOM

- God’s reign on the earth is created when we give Him lordship
 - o He is KING = when we make room for Him to lead
 - It involves discernment NOT comfort

The PROMISE...

(Mat 6:25-33) **"Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear.** Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?...
²⁸"And why do you worry about clothes?..... ³¹So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' ³²For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. ³³**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

IS IT REALLY TRUE?

- Can you really just seek HIS KINGDOM = Letting Him be King, directing your life
- Can you really just seek HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS = Right relationship with Him

THEN WILL HE..

- Give you all that you need to LIVE and THRIVE...

THE COST = “SEEK HIS KINGDOM”

- LISTENING rather than FIGURING
- STEWARDING THE WORD OF GOD rather than DOING WHAT I WANT
- OBEYING rather than IGNORING (not listening)

THIS IS NOT THE “SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST”

- **This is a test – a contest to see if you will choose to die...**
- **This is a test to see... WILL YOU TAKE UP YOUR CROSS (like he took up His)**

THE PROCESS TO FINDING LIFE -

(Mat 10: 37- 39)"Anyone who loves his father or mother more than me is not worthy of me; anyone who loves his son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; 38 and **anyone who does not take his cross and follow me is not worthy of me.** **39 Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.**

DYING TO SELF MEANS LIVING TO GOD

- **It’s not just a metaphor... It really means that you need to let go of some things that you think are important**
 - o **Yes, some things that you now think are essential**
 - o **Event some things that God gave you....**
 - **Just Like Abraham was asked to sacrifice Issaac, you will be asked to lay down EXACTLY what God has given you...**

- IT WILL DEMONSTRATE WHO THE KING IN YOUR LIFE IS...

THE PROMISE FOR OBEDIENCE – GOD SHOWS UP!

(John 14:21 KJV) **Whoever has my commands and obeys them, he is the one who loves me.** He who loves me will be loved by my Father, and **I too will love him and show myself to him.** 24 He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me.

- We have to HAVE His commandments
 - Seek His face
 - Hear His voice
- OBEY HIS COMMANDMENTS
 - Loving Jesus is not a feeling
 - Love starts as a feeling – but the feeling alone is an emotion – NOT LOVE
 - LOVE IS AN ACTION
 - We are learning to love Jesus... not only in word but in deed
- JESUS WILL SHOW HIMSELF
 - TO THOSE WHO LISTEN AND OBEY
- JESUS LOVES EVERYBODY – BUT HE SHOWS HIS LOVE TO THOSE WHO PAY ATTENTION

YES... SO BUILD IT --- AND HE WILL COME!

CHOOSE WHO TO PARTNER WITH... You have three choices

(John 10:10) "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

- Partnership with...
 - The thief
 - Then you will experience Him STEAL from you, KILL your joy, DESTROY life
 - Yourself
 - Some pleasure, but "if you keep your life, you will lose it"
 - Jesus
 - Must lose your life (high cost)
 - WILL GAIN HIS LIFE... = LIFE ABUNDANT (now and Eternal)

THE LIFE OF JESUS - IS BUILT ON LOSS!!

THE PROCESS... The field, the pearl...

Mat 13:44-46 (NKJV) "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and hid; **and for joy over it he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.** [45] "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking beautiful pearls, [46] who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

INVITATION:

Where do you get guidance for your life?

How do you make decisions about what to do?

Do you make decisions based on what seems right to you?

How do you "SEEK FIRST THE KINGDOM" in your life?

- Is it on your calendar?
- How do you steward the word of God when He gives it to you
 - Do you write it down and think about what to do? – OR DO YOU OBEY