

“Star Wars: Rise of Skywalker”

God at the Movies, 2020

[Bumper Video 2:19]

Welcome back to SWFF and our 17th annual *God at the Movies* series in which we attempt to search for spiritual truth in some of last year’s films. This series is a big element of our church, for one because Austin is such a movie town. But mostly, I guess, because I am such a big movie person. This is what I do. I like to relax by watching movies on the big screen – it’s my hobby. I was at the local Westgate theatre on the Thursday night for the final screening before they shut down because of the pandemic – FOR THE SECOND TIME THIS YEAR! I know there are a lot of real things to lament in this crisis, but this is painful for me.

I love movies. My parents – specifically my mom – would take us to see movies when I was a kid and it was just magical. And she’d take us to the summer blockbusters, sure, but she would also take us to see important films. I vividly remember seeing *Chariot’s of Fire* and *Amadeus* in the theatre when I was a *child*. I might have been a bit bored at the time, but I came to understand that movies could *mean* something.

And so there are two types of films that I really like. I love smart, serious movies that make you think. They’re not just for entertainment, they are for

understanding the world – however painful that understanding may be. But then I also like big fun movies that just make you feel good. The first three movies we tackled in this year’s series have been in the first category – *films*. All three nominated for Best Picture. But today’s selection is solidly in the second category. This is a *movie* – a big dumb movie...and I absolutely loved it.

J.J. Abram’s *Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker* wraps up the nine movie story-arc that began very personally for me in a strip mall movie theatre in Fayetteville, Arkansas in 1977 when your 6-year-old future pastor got his first glimpse of the Star Wars universe. And it was transformational! I was hooked from then on; had the lunch box, had the bed sheets, had the toys – who am I kidding, I still *have* them! And my children are hooked as well. If you were to look at the Scoma Family calendar you would notice that we have marked the launch date of *The Mandalorian* Season 2 – Ari and I watch it together. Baby Yoda!

So, what I am saying is...I am a fan. Which means I realize I am not objective, you can’t make a bad Star Wars film. It’s like my Aunt Pat’s baked macaroni and cheese; you can tell me, “Anthony that’s not a wise nutritional choice...” I don’t care, she’s been making it for me since I was *five*. Do you understand? It’s a *part* of me now. So I’ve never *not* enjoyed watching anything Star Wars related.

So with that said, is this movie a mess? Of course it is. There are five hours of plots crammed into two hours. And it leaves you with more unanswered questions than a homeschool mom's sex education talk. It's quite literally all over the place. Do we really need to follow our heroes on a quest to find an item that will lead them to *another* item that will lead them to the thing they're really looking for in the first place? No we do not. But it sure is fun.

Despite all of the complaints, *The Rise of Skywalker* is a satisfying conclusion to the story that George Lucas started telling over 40 years ago. By the end of the movie, all of the major character arcs are complete. We get a chance to say goodbye to Luke, Leia, and Han. Rey and Kylo Ren have found their place in the universe, and the Jedi versus Sith conflict is finally over.

J. J. Abrams went big with *The Rise of Skywalker*, and if he didn't quite stick the landing, he certainly tried. The film matches its ambition. It's a movie that's full of spectacle. The dogfights, the lightsaber duels, and the blaster battles are bigger than anything we've ever seen in a Star Wars movie before. And the Easter eggs, cameos, and nods to past Star Wars films pop up everywhere.

Let me tell you how I watched this movie – I took notes on Tuesday – basically goes like this...“Palpatine ☹️? The Falcon ☹️! Chewie ☹️! Lando ☹️! Chewie ☹️? Evil C-

3PO ☹️? Leia ☹️. Han ☹️☹️ ? Luke ☹️! Luke's X-Wing Fighter ☹️! Horses ☹️? All the Jedi voices ☹️? Why are they showing that old man in the cockpit"...google, google, google...“Wedge Antillies ☹️! Two lightsabers ☹️!? Uncle Owens house ☹️!” The end.

It's hard to think of a better tribute to Star Wars, especially given the final scene, which takes us back to where everything began. *The Rise of Skywalker* is bold, ambitious, convoluted, messy, hopeful, overwrought, and complicated. In other words, it's Star Wars in a nutshell. And I loved it. And if you didn't love it...I'm not mad...I'm just sad.

Well, let's turn this bit of cotton candy nostalgia into a sermon, shall we? Easy enough to do. Every Star Wars story is a morality tale at some point. They could end all of these by having Mark Hamill pop up at the end like an after-school-special, “Kids, today we learned that working together is better than being a bully. The more you know...!”

George Lucas said of his creation, “I've always described it as a space fantasy designed to be a modern fairy tale.” Religions have always been communicated using fantasy stories, epic poems, larger than life heroes and villains; and Christianity is no different. Just don't mistake “fantasy” for meaning “not real”. In some ways, fiction can convey realities that the best non-fiction can never touch.

So, there's one theme that runs through the whole of the Star Wars saga. You know what it is. "May the... what?...be with you." The Force! The force is a spiritual power that flows through the universe and it appears in two shades, doesn't it? The light side and the dark side. Over and over this light vs. dark contrast is played out. Luke Skywalker vs. Darth Vader. Qui-Gon vs. Darth Maul, Yoda vs. Palpatine, Rey vs. Kylo Ren. The religious aspect is the Jedi vs. the Sith. What's the political aspect? The Empire vs...? The Resistance. Or the Rebellion, depending on whose side you're on.

That's the theme of this last movie as well and a fitting topic for our sermon....*with* some clarification. George Lucas built his concept of the Force off the influence of Eastern religions with their yin/yang balance. That is *not* the religion of the Bible. But I think many Christians *act* like it is. And that comes from the Greek influence on our faith – Plato taught a dualism of good and evil struggle that has crept into our theology in many places.

But it's important to understand that the Bible teaches no such thing. God is the creator and sustainer of the universe and apart from Him there is nothing. Evil is not a created thing, it is simply the absence of God's goodness. It's like how darkness isn't really an entity in itself, it is simply the absence of light. God has no equal, God has no opposite. Satan, The Prince of

Darkness, El Diablo, whatever you want to call the personalized enemy of God's creation, "he" or "it" is not a dark "version" of God. It's simply the *absence* of God's characteristics.

But that doesn't mean we don't have a choice to make in which path to follow. We can walk *with* God or we can walk *without* God – which means we are necessarily walking with the forces of demonic darkness – because that's what "without God" means. The New Testament talks about it in terms of the choice between walking in the spirit and walking in the flesh. The "fruits" of each are clearly delineated in Paul's letter to the Galatians.

This is why the great villain of our story – in the fantastical book of Revelation – is not given a proper name, but is simply the "Anti-Christ". Because if Christ is "the way, the truth and the life", then whatever is *not* Christ is lost, lies and death. And so while the Sith vs. Jedi distinction is a bit of a stretch for Christianity, the other – what we called "the political" or physical aspect of the great contrast is very Biblical indeed.

Let me set it up with a clip. The film starts, not with the good guys, but with everyone's favorite Dark-Side-curious emo-Jedi bad boyfriend, Kylo Ren, formerly known as Ben Solo, attempting to hunt down a mysterious voice being broadcast from the edges of the universe. The source of that voice brings us to a long-past acquaintance. [**Palpatine 1:56**]

That's Emperor Palpatine, who we're all pretty sure we saw Darth Vader throw down a Death Star elevator shaft in his great moment of salvation. Did the Emperor survive the fall? Has he been cloned? Was the one in the *previous* movies a clone? It's best not to ask too many questions. What matters is, evil is back and he's bringing the Empire back with him. And make no mistake, the Empire is the physical form of evil in the universe. You don't have to be a Jedi or a Sith to choose sides between the Resistance and the Empire.

Now at the beginning of that clip, he introduced himself as "every voice you're ever heard inside your head." When I heard that, I couldn't help but think of the demonic, of the devil; "the accuser" – that's what Satan means – the one who gets in our head, whispers deceptions and lies and fears to try to influence away from God's path. And it's fitting that what he wants to do is build an Empire. That's a key theme in the Bible.

In fact, let me back up for a minute. We were talking about the various names we ascribe to our dark enemy. One of them is "Lucifer", but that's tricky. Let me show you. We get that word, first, from a passage by the Old Testament Prophet Isaiah, who is writing a renunciation of - fittingly enough - an emperor. He's talking to the Israelites in their suffering and says, "Don't worry, like any good Star

Wars movie, the good guys will win in the end."
Isaiah 14:3-4, "*On the day the Lord gives you relief from your suffering and turmoil and from the harsh labor forced on you, you will take up this taunt against **the king of Babylon**: How the oppressor has come to an end! How his fury has ended!*"

The King of Babylon was who? Do you know your ancient near-eastern history? Nebuchadnezzar, ruler of the Babylonian Empire who ransacked Jerusalem in the 6th century BC and led it's people to a 50-year captivity in exile. But Isaiah is saying, "But don't you worry, the emperor is going to get his." That's what the whole passage is about. And so in that context, we read **v.12**, "*How you have fallen from heaven, **morning star**, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations!*"

Now, that word we translate as "morning star" - or some versions have "light-bringer" - is the Hebrew word *Helel* and in Latin it's *Lucifer*. What this is, is actually the planet Venus, which when it's orbital swing is to the west of the sun, rises before dawn as a herald of a new day. It's actually a very visible phenomena in our hemisphere right now and I took this picture while getting my breakfast taco Wednesday morning.

Now, how did Venus come to be conflated with the devil? Well, there's a place in Luke where Jesus says, "I saw Satan fall from heaven like lightning." And subsequently there has been a long Christian tradition that links what Jesus said there, with what Isaiah said in v.12. But Jesus never makes that link and nowhere else does the Bible make that link. In fact, in other places in the New Testament where the word is used – *phorsphoros* is the Greek version of the Latin, *Lucifer* – it is in reference to *Christ Jesus* himself!

So, as much as it may blow your mind – Deanna this week said with incredulity, "You mean I've been taught this wrong my whole life?!" – yes, in a strictly Biblical sense, "Lucifer" has nothing to do with what we call the devil or Satan in scripture. If you want, see me later and I can show you the math. But, despite the confusing fact that Lucifer in the Old Testament is King Nebuchadnezzar and Lucifer in the New Testament is Jesus, I think I can make a connection for us in a way that *does* see Isaiah 14 as connected to the demonic.

In Isaiah's prophetic critique of Babylon as a God defying empire, King Nebuchadnezzar is a personification of the whole imperial project. It's with the aims and ambitions of empire that we encounter one of the primary ways of interpreting the satanic. This is especially true when we connect the satanic with the biblical theme of Babylon.

Throughout Scripture Babylon is always darkly associated with the evils of empire. It becomes a stand in for the ways of the anti-Christ in the book of Revelation.

So Emperor Palpatine is a demonic, satanic figure – not because he's dark and creepy and has long bony fingers – but simply because he is an *emperor*. Empires do not get good press in the scriptures; starting with Egypt and going through Rome. Why? Because Empires demand that everything and everyone look like they do. I'll get back to this in a moment, but before we can understand why the Bible is so against empires we need to look at the opposite – the Resistance.

In our Star Wars films, who makes up the Resistance? Which planet? Which nation? Which people group? Which species? All of them, right? In the Empire, everyone looks the same – you think a Storm Trooper could as a sash to his uniform for a little pop of color? Of course not! They have *clone* armies for goodness sake. But not in the Resistance. Every color of the rainbow is found in the Resistance. I want to play you a clip of the celebration after they win – again, spoiler alert, it's Star Wars, the good guys *always* win in the end! But as you watch, think about the kinds of beings you see in the interaction. [**Celebration :53**]

The diversity of the Star Wars universe is just incredible. I mean their greatest admiral was a living piece of calamari! It's a picture of all kinds of people and cultures and languages – and *species!* - working together in harmony. It's a fantasy reflection of what in our reality would be something like the United Nations, which was established after the Second World War to stand up to and hopefully prevent just such future imperial aggression.

Now, what do you think of when you hear terms like “globalization”, “multiculturalism” or “pluralism”? Are those bad words? Socialist agenda? We're so divided in America that everything becomes a buzzword for partisan politics. But on the contrary, I want to demonstrate that, if you truly understand the Scriptures, you can't miss that multiculturalism is central to the heart of God and an inseparable part of our Gospel mandate.

There's a celebration similar to that clip that is depicted in the second chapter of the Book of Acts. Acts is the sequel to the Book of Luke – which is the record of Jesus' life, teachings, death and resurrection – and Acts continues with the story of the church, after that. And the inauguration moment takes place during the Jewish Feast of Pentecost when the power of the Holy Spirit supernaturally came upon the followers of Jesus and they began speaking in tongues – this is where the modern designation of “Pentecostalism” comes from. With which I self-identify by the way.

This took place in a very public way on the Temple Mount which would have been very crowded for the festival. So these first Christians had an audience. And Luke tells us that all of the people around them could understand what they were saying – each in their own individual language. I personally think the miracle was one of hearing, not speech – that the disciples were all actually speaking a heavenly language and the Holy Spirit was translating for the crowd - but let's not get bogged down in that.

But look at this list of nations we find listed in **Acts 2:19-20**, “*Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring **the wonders of God in our own tongues!**”* What's with the United Nations list? Why would Luke include that detail? It's very intentional.

The last time you see a table of the nations is in Genesis 10. We're told about all the nations of the earth and then in Genesis 11 we're told about the Tower of Babel – have you heard of this story? - the people of the earth decided to be their own masters and “make a name for themselves”, and as a result, their tongues were confused.

God came down, we're told, on the Tower of Babel to confuse their tongues, which was a way of showing us that when you decide to justify yourself and be your own lord and savior, the result is racial and cultural superiority and imperialism, racial and cultural hostility, and a destruction of human community. This establishes the principle that it's rebellion against God that causes all the wars and conflicts between people and nations. We are cosmically divided.

But we're told in Acts 2, that when the Spirit came down God was creating a new people. And now, their speech is not about making a name for *themselves* as they had at Babel, but about proclaiming "the wonders of God" – in Greek the word *megaleios*, the mega deeds, the great works of God. The greatest work being the gospel accomplished through Jesus Christ. And when that happens, all of the sudden people from different races and nationalities are not divided, they are cosmically united.

The first thing that happens is the barriers between cultures come down. Pentecost demonstrates that the first worship service, the first sermon of the New Testament church, was preached in what language? The first worship service, the first sermon, was preached in what culture? *All* of them! Why? When God came down He reversed the curse of Babel. The Day of Pentecost is a reversal of Babel.

But here's what's interesting, God sent them home with a common *spiritual* language - speaking in tongues – but God did not turn back the clock to Genesis 10 where everyone spoke the same *physical* language. Fuller Seminary professor Amos Yong says that "The strong and perhaps unmistakable inference to be drawn is that the preservation of many tongues on the Day of Pentecost is an indication that God values not only linguistic diversity but also cultural plurality."

In fact, when Peter gets up to explain what's going on, he reads a passage from the prophecy of Joel and by doing so, Peter expands the Spirit's multicultural anointing to include gender, age and economic status differences. So the outpouring of Pentecost shows us in a powerful way that **God loves diversity**. That God's plan going forward – the new covenant – unlike the old covenant which had been primarily homogeneous and Hebrew focused – was now *incredibly* pluralistic. For first century people it would have been shockingly pluralistic.

I grew up in a Pentecostal church that had missions parades every year and flags from all the nations decorated the auditorium as part of our mandate to take the gospel to "the ends of the earth." That pleases God. If you're not into globalism, if you don't have a love for the nations, you're going to really have a hard time in heaven!

And so the big take away from this is that God loves nations...*but* and this is a big “but.” *Because* God loves nations, God hates what threatens nations and there is one thing in particular throughout the ages that has threatened the diversity of nations more than anything else. So let’s say it this way, **God loves nations, but God hates empires.** George Lucas got this right. The ultimate bad guy is always the Emperor. But it’s not just George Lucas or JJ Abrams or even Alexander Hamilton who are opposed to empires. It’s Isaiah, it’s Jeremiah, it’s John the Revelator and many, many more biblical authors that all tell the story of God’s opposition to the spirit of Babylon.

So *why* does God love nations but hate empires? What’s God’s beef with Babylon? What do I even mean by empire? Let me first give you a definition: “Empires are rich, powerful nations who believe they have a divine right to rule over other nations and manifest destiny to shape history according to their own agenda.” (Zahn, *Postcards from Babylon*, 107)

Empires want to rule the world. Empires want to rule the galaxy! Empires insist that the only legitimate way of arranging the world is *their* way. Empires claim that only total obedience to their way will bring peace on earth. In previous Star Wars films we learned that democratically elected *Senator* Palpatine was voted his autocratic imperial powers...why?...to maintain peace in the galaxy. But peace at what cost?

This is not fiction, this is history. Thus the *Pax Romana*; you can have the peace *of* Rome...as long as you are at peace *with* Rome. But step out of line and the power of empire will *crush* you. In the film, we see that every new Imperial Destroyer is equipped with advanced ion cannons that can literally blow up your whole planet if you do not bow the knee.

How did the Roman Empire finally handle the Jewish resistance? The future emperor Titus laid siege to Jerusalem in 70 AD and burned the city to the ground. History records the Romans didn’t leave one stone on top of another. Violence - economic or physical – are the two means of power for *every* empire - mammon and mars, money and military, wealth and war.

But the problem with Babylon, and thus all empires, is that what they claim for themselves - the divine right to rule other nations and manifest destiny to shape history - is the very thing that God has promised to someone else. That is the sole purgative of the Messiah. **Psalms 2:7-8** (ESV) is one of many examples, “*I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "You are my Son; today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will make the nations your inheritance, and the ends of the earth your possession."*” The only one who will get to shape all nations into a kingdom that reflects his will and his way is...Jesus Christ.

There's only one King of Kings - ironically a title that first belonged to Nebuchadnezzar. Which brings us back to old "Lucifer", listen to how Isaiah perfectly reads the imperial heart, (**Isaiah 14:13-14**) "*You said in your heart, "I will ascend to the heavens; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of Mount Zaphon. I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; **I will make myself like the Most High.**"*" If you know your Bible, you remember how that worked out for old Nebbi K. Not well. God humbled him – as God does eventually to *all* empires.

The Empire of Christ and the Empires of this world are in conflict. Always. And so if you're not part of the Resistance...you're in league with the Emperor. It needs to be emphasized that Jesus and his two most important apostles, Peter and Paul, were all executed by the Roman empire. Why? Not for the religious beliefs about an afterlife, but because the kingdom of heaven they announced and enacted posed a challenge to the dominant myth that Rome had a manifest destiny to rule the nations and a divine right to shape history. Either it was Jesus who is the last best hope of the earth or it was Rome. But it couldn't be both.

Now, on February 27, 380 AD, something happened that shakes the foundations of the world. For the first time in history, an empire claimed to be Christian. The Edict of Thessalonica proclaimed Nicene Christianity as the official religion of the Roman Empire. In a single generation, Christians went from being persecuted for their faith to *being* the faith of the land. And it wouldn't even take another generation before they were the one's *persecuting* for the faith.

The bombastic Orthodox theologian David Bentley Hart has a great quote, "It is hardly novel to observe that **Christianity's greatest historical triumph was also its most calamitous defeat:** with the conversion of the Roman Empire, the faith that was born proclaiming the overthrow of the powers of 'this age' all at once found itself in alliance with, subordinate to, and too often emulous of those powers." (Atheist Delusions, 17). In other words, we became sell outs. Chaplains to Empire.

And more often than not, those chaplains baptize the weapons of empire – remember? – war and wealth. And lose forever the prophetic power of the Isaiahs and the John the Baptist's and the Paul's who would rather choose truth and a cross than bless a lie for comfort and advancement.

Christians like to point out that it was followers of Christ who were most responsible for ending slavery – and that is true. But we too often stay silent – or more likely ignorant – of that fact that it was *also* Christians, specifically in the 15th Century Portuguese Empire, that blessed the birth of the African slave trade in the first place. Henry the Navigator, fourth child of the Emperor, made his name by discovering a sea route to sub-Saharan Africa – thus bypassing the trade posts of North Africa that were locked down by Arabian Muslims.

And with his discovery began the first race-based African to European slave trade that would make Portugal the richest force on the planet...and directly lead to the mess we're in with race issues in our country today. His nephew, the future Emperor, commissioned Gomes Eanes de Zurara to write an official biography of his famous uncle. Zurara had been a member of Henry's "Military Order of Christ" – an oxymoron if ever there was one.

And Gomes wrote that the slave trade had not just been a way to enrich the emperor, but actually a mission of mercy to bring the heathen "sub-human" Africans to Christianity. His book is the very seed of the systemic racism that spread through the Western world. His ideas would be echoed by Confederate state slaveholders 400 years later. "It's not about the economics, it's about the gospel." I should spit on the ground when I say that.

Christian sell-outs like to tell themselves that they can use the weapons of empire for Christian purposes. But Jesus said, "No one can serve two masters." And so for Christian sell-outs to empire, his command to give to the poor become a greedy prosperity gospel, name-it-and-claim-it sham, that leaves the poor faithful worse off than they already were. Jesus' command to turn the other cheek and bless those who curse you becomes a jingoistic rallying cry for "just war" in the name of freedom.

I have a riddle for you. What do you get when you mix church and politics? You get politics. If you strap a dead body to a live body, the dead body will eventually win out...every single time. You cannot use the weapons of the enemy against him. This was what Tolkien was trying to tell us in the Middle Earth stories. The one ring of power enslaved all who would use it – even for good. Take it up – even to slay the evil Emperor – and you will simply become his servant. A ghost, a shadow of your noble potential.

That's George Lucas' message too. We saw it with Anakin Skywalker on his journey to become Darth Vader. The Emperor seduced him to the dark side by stoking his anger and his hate and his violence – at first towards "legitimate" candidates. But you can't use the enemy's weapons against him. That is the path to the dark side.

And likewise, in this film, Emperor Palpatine lures good Jedi Rey – his *granddaughter* somehow? Best not to ask too many questions – but he lures her to his hidden demon palace to stoke her rage and goad her into killing him – he reveals that it was he who had her parents murdered when she was a child. But by killing him – embracing the dark side of the force – she will allow his soul to enter hers – literally possessing her and allowing the Emperor to live on. This is the story of human history – one Emperor replaces another and the destruction and suffering of humanity marches on, while Lucifer laughs and laughs.

But Rey finds a way to shut his stupid laughing Emperor face for good. *Not* by playing his game. *Not* by using his own methods against him. *Not* by striking him down with her lightsaber. No, she doesn't exchange her violence for his violence, she does something...unexpected. Let's watch. [**cross sabers 1:01**]

And the systems of evil come tumbling down. What did Rey do? She turned his own destructive power back on himself. She didn't strike him with her light saber, no, the Emperor was destroyed by his *own* Luciferian lighting. In fact, when it was just her lightsaber he seemed to be getting the better of her. Maybe the Sith *were* more powerful than the Jedi, the dark more powerful than the light. But once she had *both* Luke and Lei's lightsabers, what did she do with them? She made them into...a cross. Oh Star Wars, you're making it too easy for me!

And this is how King Jesus overcame all the Empires of the world. Not by using the weapons of Empire. Not by returning violence for violence. He didn't come to Jerusalem to raise an army. He didn't come to finance a rebellion. He came to die...on a cross...and in doing so, he turned the power of death back upon itself, and three days later walked out of an empty grave, the undisputed champion. By the way, there's a sacrificial resurrection motif at the end of the movie as well, but let's not get carried away.

No, it's enough to lay out the contrast between Jesus' everlasting Kingdom and the Empires of this world. No matter what sell-out Christianity tries to tell you – throughout history or right here and right now – you cannot serve them both. The Empire of Christ and the Empires of this world are in conflict. Always. And so if you're not part of the Resistance...you're in league with the Emperor.

What does it look like in your life? Are you using your money the way the culture dictates you use it? Or are you part of the resistance? How are you using your power – at work for instance? Do you use it to dominate *over* others and advance yourself? Or do you use it to serve others, to use your influence to come *under* and lift others up; make their lives better?

When Jesus was brought before Pilate, his life on the line, and the Roman governor – symbol of Roman Imperial power – Pilate addressed the bloodthirsty crowd (**John 19:15 ESV**) “~~Pilate said to them,~~ “*Shall I crucify your King?*” *The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.”*” You can only choose one. With apologies to Bob Dylan, “It may be the Emperor, or it may be the Lord, but you’re gonna have to serve somebody.”
Who...will...*you*...choose?

Let’s pray...