



**MIRACLE
IN EAST
TEXAS**
Sermon Notes

The Miracle in East Texas Sermon Notes

Discoverng Miracles in Unexpected Places

Introduction:

Miracles that can be found in the most unexpected places. It's a tale of hope, friendship, and the transformative power of faith. Just like the characters in the movie "Miracle in East Texas," we too can discover miracles in our own lives if we open our hearts and minds to the possibilities.

1. The Power of Belief:

In the movie, we witness the extraordinary power of belief. The two con artists, against all odds, manage to convince the town's inhabitants that their "Bible of Success" holds the key to a better life. It reminds us that belief has the power to move mountains. When we have faith in ourselves, in others, and in something greater than us, miracles can happen.

2. The Importance of Friendship:

Throughout the movie, we see the deep bond that develops between the two con artists. Despite their questionable intentions at first, their friendship grows stronger as they encounter challenges together. It teaches us that genuine friendships can emerge even in the most unlikely of circumstances. Our friends can be a source of strength, support, and inspiration, helping us navigate through life's trials and tribulations.

3. Embracing Second Chances:

One of the central themes in the movie is the idea of second chances. The characters, burdened by their past mistakes, find redemption through their interactions with the townsfolk. It's a powerful reminder that we all make mistakes, but it's never too late to start anew. We should be open to giving and receiving second chances, allowing ourselves and others the opportunity to grow, change, and create miracles in our lives.

4. Unleashing the Miracles Within:

The movie reminds us that miracles are not something external, but rather something that lies within each one of us. It's about tapping into our own potential, embracing our unique talents, and using them to make a positive impact in the world. Just like the characters in the movie, we all have something special to offer. When we have the courage to share our gifts, miracles begin to unfold.



Conclusion:

As we reflect on the movie "Miracle in East Texas," let us remember that miracles are not limited to grand gestures or extraordinary events. They can be found in the simplest acts of kindness, in the connections we forge with others, and in the belief that something beautiful can emerge from even the most challenging circumstances. May we be inspired to embrace the power of belief, cherish our friendships, embrace second chances, and unleash the miracles within ourselves.

Remember, miracles are all around us. It's up to us to open our eyes, hearts, and minds to recognize them.

Finding Hope in the Midst of Darkness



Introduction:

A message of hope, inspired by the movie "Miracle in East Texas." In a world often overshadowed by darkness and despair, this film reminds us that even in the most challenging times, hope can be found. Let us explore the themes of perseverance, faith, and the transformative power of love that resonate through this story, and discover how they can bring light into our own lives.

1. Perseverance in the Face of Adversity:

In the movie, we witness the characters' unwavering determination to overcome the odds stacked against them. They face numerous obstacles, setbacks, and opposition, but they refuse to give up. This reminds us that in our own lives, we too may encounter trials and tribulations. However, it is through perseverance that we can find the strength to overcome challenges and achieve the miracles waiting on the other side.

2. The Power of Faith:

Throughout the movie, faith plays a pivotal role. The characters' belief in something greater than themselves allows them to persevere, even when circumstances seem dire. It is a reminder that our faith can sustain us in the darkest of times. When we place our trust in a higher power and hold onto the belief that there is a greater plan at work, miracles become possible.

3. Transformative Power of Love:

Love is a central theme in "Miracle in East Texas." The characters, initially driven by self-interest, gradually discover the power of love and its ability to transform lives. Love has the capacity to heal wounds, mend broken hearts, and inspire acts of kindness. When we extend love to others, we create an environment where miracles can flourish.

4. Embracing Unexpected Blessings:

The movie teaches us to be open to unexpected blessings. Sometimes, miracles come to us in ways we least expect. It may be disguised as an ordinary encounter, a chance meeting, or an unforeseen opportunity. By embracing these unexpected blessings with gratitude and an open heart, we allow miracles to unfold in our lives.

Conclusion:

As we reflect on the movie "Miracle in East Texas," let us remember that hope can be found in the midst of darkness. Through perseverance, faith, and the transformative power of love, we can navigate through life's challenges and discover miracles waiting to be unveiled. May we be inspired to hold onto hope, nurture our faith, and extend love to those around us. And may we always remember that even in the darkest moments, miracles are possible.

Carry the lessons from this movie in our hearts, seeking hope, faith, and love in all aspects of our lives. Find strength to persevere, the courage to trust in a higher power, and the willingness to embrace unexpected blessings. Remember, miracles are not far away—they are within our reach.



*For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world
and forfeit his soul?*

Mark 8:36 ESV

Finding Hope and Redemption Against All Odds

Introduction:

In the heartwarming movie "Miracle in East Texas," we are immersed in a tale of hope, redemption, and the power of human resilience. Based on a true story, this film takes us on a journey through the lives of two con artists who stumble upon an opportunity to change their lives in a small town in East Texas during the Great Depression. Let us delve into the themes of second chances, the strength of community, and the transformative power of forgiveness that resonate through this story, and explore how they can inspire us in our own lives.



1. Embracing Second Chances:

The characters in "Miracle in East Texas" teach us the importance of embracing second chances. Despite their questionable pasts, these individuals are given an opportunity to start anew and make amends for their wrongdoings. This highlights the transformative power of redemption and the potential for personal growth when we choose to learn from our mistakes and embrace a fresh start.

2. The Strength of Community:

At the heart of "Miracle in East Texas" lies the strength of community. The townspeople, initially skeptical of the con artists, gradually come together to support their endeavor. This unity reminds us of the power of collective resilience and the strength we gain from supporting one another. It emphasizes the importance of community in times of adversity and the significant impact we can have on each other's lives when we come together.

3. The Transformative Power of Forgiveness:

Throughout the film, forgiveness plays a central role in the characters' personal growth and the healing of their relationships. As they confront their past mistakes and seek forgiveness from those they have wronged, we witness the transformative power of forgiveness in action. This theme serves as a powerful reminder that forgiveness has the ability to free us from the burdens of guilt and resentment, allowing us to move forward with a renewed sense of purpose and peace.

4. Finding Hope in the Midst of Hardship:

Set against the backdrop of the Great Depression, "Miracle in East Texas" teaches us the importance of finding hope in the midst of hardship. Despite the challenges they face, the characters maintain an unwavering belief in the possibility of a better future. Their resilience serves as an inspiration to never lose hope, even when circumstances seem bleak. It encourages us to seek the silver linings in life's difficulties and to hold onto the belief that miracles can happen, even in the most unlikely of circumstances.

Conclusion:

As we reflect on the movie "Miracle in East Texas," let us remember the importance of embracing second chances, the strength of community, the transformative power of forgiveness, and the significance of finding hope in the face of adversity. May this heartwarming tale inspire us to believe in the power of redemption, the strength of unity, and the possibility of personal growth. May we find the courage to seek forgiveness, extend compassion to others, and never lose hope, even in the toughest of times. May this movie serve as a reminder that miracles can happen when we open our hearts and minds to the possibilities that lie before us.



Thanks to Pastor Jade Fulford, part of the All Pro Pastors International writing staff.

A DISCUSSION OF FORGIVENESS

By Sam Sorbo

The "Cancel Culture" we experience today is an intense rejection of the Christian ethic of *forgiveness*. That is the reason for the strong redemptive story arc in *Miracle in East Texas*.

Jesus said

“Pray then like this: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

Matthew 6:9-15 (ESV)

What is forgiveness?



*Forgiveness is the fragrance the violet sheds
on the heel that crushed it.*

~ Mark Twain



Discuss the meaning of this quote and how it might be acted out in someone's life.

Discuss about a time you got angry with someone and explore what transpired that angered you, and how it was reconciled.

Did that person apologize?

Did you forgive the person?

What did that look and feel like?

Note: it helps to pray for the person who hurt you. Jesus told us to pray for our enemies – that they might know Him. Understanding that evil and sin exist in the world brings us closer to forgiving those who sin against us, but harboring hatred in our hearts only causes us harm and hurt.

How do you forgive someone who refuses to apologize or even acknowledge they did anything wrong?

Because part of forgiveness is allowing other people the dignity of their choices, the choice that person made to hurt you (assuming it was intentional) is something they own. It belongs to them, not you. Your forgiveness stems only from your own need to release the anger - often anger that is directed inward, at yourself, in fact. Your forgiveness of their actions comes from simply understanding they made that choice. You forgive them because they are human and we all (sinners) make poor choices, but you don't invite them back into your life (to hurt you again.) Forgiveness is akin to letting go, so you can live your life free of that pain.

Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it is stored than to anything on which it is poured.

~ Mark Twain

Discuss why Flora May Simms refused Doc Boyd's return of the money he led her to invest in his initial oil scam in Oklahoma.

Doc would have had to have swindled other women to get the money, so Flora May saw it as tainted. Also, she refused him as a matter of principle. By indulging him and allowing him to "purchase" forgiveness, she knew she would simply be allowing him to assuage his guilt. She needed him to understand you cannot buy your way out of sinning against others.

By showing the power of Flora Mays' encouragement of forgiveness, this movie intends to promote those feelings of grace and mercy in the broader community.



Flora May eventually forgive Doc when she read his letter aloud in the courtroom: Although she began with an aching heart, in rereading what he had written to her, she slowly realized that despite his wayward intentions, Doc had shown her a love she'd never previously known. Whether it was real or not, Flora May understood its tremendous value in her life, like water to a drought-stricken land. She also began to realize that his gesture of contrition, when he tried to refund her, was an act of true love, and that he was worthy of forgiveness for all that he had given to the community.

In the end, Flora May and Doc Boyd have married, leaving the audience to imagine the events immediately preceding their union. In this case, we might imagine Doc Boyd is freed from prison and finds Flora May to truly apologize to her (again) and beg for her hand in marriage. He is a reformed man, having seen the light, learned from his mistakes, and shown an eagerness to share the gift that freed him, both from actual prison and the prison in his own heart.

That conversation redeemed him in her eyes.

How does forgiveness benefit us, personally?

We all need forgiveness, and we all need to forgive others.

What does it mean to forgive yourself?

How can we practice forgiving and forgiveness?

I think that if God forgives us we must forgive ourselves.

*Otherwise it is almost like setting up ourselves as a
higher tribunal than Him.*

~ C.S. Lewis

Discuss the symbolism in the film that while the oil men were drilling for “liquid gold” the women they learned to love unearthed the goodness inside of them.



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forfeit his soul?*
Mark 8:36 ESV

