

AT THE MOVIES

Invictus

Out of the night that covers me,
Black as the Pit from pole to pole,
I thank whatever gods may be
For my unconquerable soul.

In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.

Beyond this place of wrath and tears
Looms but the Horror of the shade,
And yet the menace of the years
Finds, and shall find, me unafraid.

It matters not how strait the gate,
How charged with punishments the scroll.
I am the master of my fate:
I am the captain of my soul.

William Ernest Henley

We are the master of our fate - the captain of our soul

"I am the master of my fate and my destiny - or are we?
How many of us are driven by hurts from our past - so we are not being the captain of our soul
When we have someone else the captain our ship - we are not steering the ship they are!

Jesus has done it - been the master of his fate and the captain of his soul. He is slandered, talked about, whipped, mocked, crucified - reward for bring love, hope and life into a world. He could call on a legend of angels to get him out of this - but he doesn't - he is the master & captain (Luke 23) Father forgive them for they know not what they do.

One of the prisoners next to him on the cross repent for what he had done - and he forgives him.

Apartheid - meaning "separateness" in Afrikaans, Racial separation
1991 apartheid was abolished

1994 first non racial election held in Africa.
Millions of blacks now voted Nelson Mandela as the leader of a very divided country

Today we want to discover some characteristics of what someone would look like who masters their own fate and captain of their own soul

People who are the master of their own fate:

1. SEE THE BIG PICTURE

They understand it is not just about them
Displayed in Galatians 5 - self control

2. EXTENDS LOVE AND GRACE TO THEIR ENEMIES

He dispels their fears and wants their input
Luke 6 - bless those who curse you, pray for those who treat you badly
Matthew 4:43-44, Luke 6:27-35 live your enemies, do good to those who hurt you, bless those that curse you, pray for them. Is that our first response?

3. INSISTS ON RECONCILIATION

Forgiveness liberates the soul and removes fear
The captain understands it needs to start at the heart and modeled from the top down
Paul - 2 Cor 5:18-19 refers to us as ministers of reconciliation. We are the ones who are to model for the world how people can live together in loving community as a church.



Whether it be in there family, work place, community - men need to man up for God & demand reconciliation in the team. There is to much gossip, backbiting and unforgiveness and it is silently killing everyone

4. WISDOM AND DISCERNMENT

He was a man of incredible wisdom and discernment

Proverbs 24:3 by wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established.

'The day I am afraid to make the tough call & challenge the people when they are wrong is the day I am no longer not fit to lead'

5. SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES

'The words in the poem helped me to stand when all I wanted to do was to lie down.'

In order to build our nation - we must all exceed our own expectations.

Masters know how to seize opportunities - he honors him by serving him the tea, encourages him about the difficulty of his job, he talks about the challenges of leading and inspiring people to become better than they think they can be, Affirmed his belief in him and gave him.

They find who the key players are and go after them

The Captain of his Soul - knows that you cannot drive people to greatness you can only Inspire, encourage & lift their spirits to be better than they are. Nelson Mandela did this so skillfully & with such heart & passion that it was not till outside when his sister questioned him, did he then realize the immensity of the vision that had been cast before him. " I think he wants US to Win the World CUP.

Isn't this how God treats? By his spirit within He quietly encourages & inspires us to be better than we are for the sake of others. He quietly asks us to be conformed to the image of his son, to apply more of his Word to our lives so that we can be holy as he is holy, so that we can be perfect as our heavenly father is perfect. He encourages us to walk closely with him so that we can be the masters of our own destiny & the captains of our own souls instead of being captained by someone or something from our past!

6. LIVE A LIFE OF FORGIVENESS

Nelson like Jesus understood very clearly - that a man or woman is not the sum total of what has happened to him over his life.

Eg You are not what has happened to you:

- Abused as a child - *that does not define who you are,*
- Divorce,
- Adultery,
- Sinned & made a mistake & someone got hurt
- Virgin - till you were married

Nelsen spent 30 years in a prison cell treated like a common criminal & when released he comes out ready to forgive & put it all aside looking for a new start for everyone

He refused to pass judgment,

- He refused to be bitter,
- He refused to vengeful,
- He refused to be angry,

He just chooses to forgive & he challenged himself & others to be better than they currently were. He challenged them to deal with their fears, insecurities, pain & hurts and become the Master of their Own Destinies & the Captains of their Own Souls!

When unforgiveness is allowed to reign within your life your boat gets hi-jacked & you loose control, you are no longer the captain or master. (New Year- time to make changes for different results)

A great film about a life of forgiveness & reconciliation but very humanistic in its approach to life declaring each of us can be the masters of our own fate & the captains of our own souls. While that is somewhat true because of the gift of freewill ultimately we are never in control throughout our of whole life.

The Truth - we are never truly master or captain - before receiving Christ the Bible says I am under the power of the small 'g' god of this world - satan & he comes only to lie, cheat, kill & destroy me. He is controlling me, however I have the illusion that I am my own captain because I get to be on the bridge & steer the direction he suggests I go via free will. My captain sends thoughts into my mind to manipulate me to continue to steer into SIN & darkness towards death & hell as my final destination. I am standing on the bridge & steering but make no mistake the directions are coming from my captain following the path of sin. However after I received Christ I now have a new captain & he also allows ME to also be on the bridge to steer under his direction. It is he who is guiding me now through light & love, not sin, and he is taking me through righteousness & holiness towards my new final destination of heaven.

Eg Salvation is about a change of Captain! The bible says I use to live under the influence of satan & sin but now I live under the influence of the spirit of Christ.

I AM THE XO.. he exists to fulfill the direction of the captain!

However to others looking on it appears like i am the captain - just because he is allowing me to steer the ship from the bridge!

As long as you follow the Captains direction and live a life of daily forgiveness—then you will always look to others like you are the Master of your Own Fate and Destine & the Captain of your own soul, but you will know really your just the XO.

You will discover like Nelson did, that a man or woman is not the sum total of experience that happens. We have a choice to forgive & follow Christ's example or to harbor bitterness & unforgiveness & forfeit your destinies to your spiritual enemy!