



Pop goes CATHOLICISM Resource Sheet

Iron Man (2 of 2: Conversion By Kidnapping)

Media Information

Rating: **PG-13**
Year: 2008
Director: Jon Favreau
Stars: Robert Downey Jr
Gwyneth Paltrow

Clip Description

Timing: 1:28:21-1:30:21

Movie Description:
After billionaire arms dealer Tony Stark is kidnapped by terrorists, he builds a suit of armor that allows him to be a superhero.

Clip Description:
Pepper Potts, Tony's assistant, refuses to help Tony if he continues to pursue his vigilante missions; Tony persuades her by explaining that his conviction flows from what he knows to be right in his heart.

Related

Scripture:

Acts 9:1-19
Matthew 6:1-6

Catechism:

#1435
#1426

Faith Connection

The central story of this movie is really a story of conversion; Tony Stark, through the traumatic experience of being wounded, kidnapped and threatened, changes from a man most concerned with himself and making profit from death (as an arms dealer) to someone concerned with helping others. Tony learns to love (the mature Christian love that means your priority is to use your gifts and life for the benefit of others). The turn from selfishness to love is one of the most common conversions; Jesus continually criticizes those of his time who held themselves up as 'holier than thou' examples while praising those who, regardless of social status, take care of others. Likewise our faith teaches that our mission today is to transform the world with that love, with that concern for and priority of the other. That's how we fulfill the admonition of the doctor who saved Tony: "Don't waste it; don't waste your life."

Discussion Questions

1. How does the idea of making others a priority in your life make you feel?
2. What selfishness do you need to purge?
3. How have you experienced conversion? (Hopefully not through kidnapping!)
4. What could you do in your life to increase the Christian love you express?
5. How do you "not waste your life?"

