

College Lunch

Pillars Series Slide

One of my favorite movie quotes comes from a highly overlooked and often forgotten about classic- "The Fugitive".

It's the story of Richard Kimball (played by Harrison Ford)- a surgeon who comes home one evening to find his wife murdered...and then the murderer, a one armed man, wrestles with Dr. Kimball but gets away.

But there isn't evidence that the one armed man even exists...it seems to the police like a made-up story.

So Richard is arrested...and eventually convicted of murdering his wife...and he's sentenced to death.

But in a prison bus accident during a prisoner transfer- Richard escapes...and becomes....THE FUGITIVE.

The rest of the film is Richard trying to avoid the police, while he searches for evidence of this one-armed man- the actual murderer.

The line that I love comes from Tommy Lee Jones in his only Oscar-winning role, playing US Marshal Sam Gerard.

Gerard has chased Richard into a large storm drain... where the US Marshal lost his footing ... and his gun....and the Dr Kimball picks up the gun- and points it at the Marshal. and yells- r - "I DIDN'T KILL MY WIFE"

To which the Marshall replies "I Don't Care!"

Which sounds cynical and a bit dismissive- but there's a little more than that to the line.

Sam Gerrard was saying "It's not my job to determine your innocence or guilt. It's not my job to re-examine evidence. In fact- you might be innocent- but that's not what I'm here to determine. My role- my responsibility- is to catch you...and bring you in."

The other aspect of this movie that I love- is Dr. Richard Kimball himself.

He never forgets his role either.

Even though he's a fugitive...and has been unjustly labeled a murderer by the state- he never loses his sense of calling and responsibility as a doctor.

When the bus carrying Dr. Kimball to prison crashes and is about to be hit by a train. As he is climbing out of the window of the bus to escape, he looks back and sees an injured guard. With the train barreling down, he risks his life to rescue the very one who had him unjustly in chains.

When Dr. Kimball sees the guard being brought into a hospital where he is stitching himself up, he risks being caught to inform the paramedics of the way particular way the guard needed to be treated.

Then, there is the scene that changes everything. In his quest to find the one-armed man that murdered his wife, Dr. Kimball disguises himself as a hospital janitor so he can gain access to prosthetic records. In so doing, he finds what he needs to track down the murderer. He is on his way out of the hospital, undetected and safe.

But on his way out, suddenly the doors to the ER bust open and an influx of patients fresh out of a massive accident are brought in. The hospital staff is overwhelmed in the commotion. Dr. Kimball notices a little boy on a gurney whose chest X-ray has been misread. He's being sent to triage to wait, but Dr. Kimball knows the boy needs an emergency operation.

He knows this little boy will die if he doesn't do something. So he picks up the chart, writes down the proper diagnosis and talks to the boy with the bedside manner of a doctor that cares about his patients. He asks him about his family.

"What sports do you play kid?"

"Don't worry, son you're gonna be OK, you're gonna be just fine."

All the while calling him by his first name.

And as they roll the boy into the operating room, Dr. Kimball, with a smile on his face, gently touches him on the cheek and says goodbye.

But when he did this, another doctor noticed. See, when a janitor is looking at X-ray film and changing a diagnosis, it looks a bit out of place.

So she calls the police, and Dr. Richard Kimball is forced to go on the run again. The Marshall eventually shows up and asks about the janitor's patient, "How's the boy he sent surgery?"

The reply? "He saved his life."

...and in that moment, you can see it written all over the Marshall's face...

That was the moment when the US Marshall Sam Garrard goes from believing he's chasing a murderer, to appreciating the life and character of an innocent man. He goes from a man that doesn't care...to one that does.

Title Slide: "Preserving Life: How Pillars Cultivate Under Pressure"- Exodus 1-2

Dr. Richard Kimball was a Pillar. Not only in the actions you see in the movie- but you could see it in the relationship he had with his wife and the way the hospital staff talked about him.

Pillars Cultivate with Grit....under pressure.
Pillars create flourishing for other people through sacrifice.

Thats what Dr. Richard Kimball was doing as Doctor...and he kept doing it as a

...FUGITIVE!

Last week- in Luke's gospel- Jesus met Moses in a cloud and talked about his Exodus.

Today- We're going to see the Dr. Richard Kimball that saved Moses...except its a woman.
Actually its 4 women.

Like every super visible and public Pillar- there are a lot of faithful invisible ones working in the background.

BEFORE Moses became a Pillar. Somebody had to be a Pillar for Moses.

Exodus 1:8-10; 15-22

A new king, who did not know about Joseph, came to power in Egypt. 9 He said to his people, "Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and powerful than we are. 10 Come, let's deal shrewdly with them; otherwise they will multiply further, and when war breaks out, they will join our enemies, fight against us, and leave the country."

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives — the first, whose name was Shiphrah, and the second, whose name was Puah — 16 "When you help the Hebrew women give birth, observe them as they deliver. If the child is a son, kill him, but if it's a daughter, she may live." 17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do as the king of Egypt had told them; they let the boys live. 18 So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, "Why have you done this and let the boys live? "

19 The midwives said to Pharaoh, "The Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women, for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife can get to them."

20 So God was good to the midwives, and the people multiplied and became very numerous. 21 Since the midwives feared God, he gave them families. 22 Pharaoh then commanded all his people, "You must throw every son born to the Hebrews into the Nile, but let every daughter live."

Exodus 2:1-10

Now a man from the family of Levi married a Levite woman.

2 The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son; when she saw that he was beautiful, she hid him for three months. 3 But when she could no longer hide him, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with asphalt and pitch. She placed the child in it and set it among the reeds by the bank of the Nile. 4 Then his sister stood at a distance in order to see what would happen to him.

5 Pharaoh's daughter went down to bathe at the Nile while her servant girls walked along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds, sent her slave girl, took it, 6 opened it, and saw him, the child — and there he was, a little boy, crying. She felt sorry for him and said, "This is one of the Hebrew boys."

7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Should I go and call a Hebrew woman who is nursing to nurse the boy for you? "

8 "Go," Pharaoh's daughter told her. So the girl went and called the boy's mother. 9 Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child and nurse him for me, and I will pay your wages." So the woman took the boy and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. She named him Moses, "Because," she said, "I drew him out of the water."

Acts 7:17-22

17 "As the time was approaching to fulfill the promise that God had made to Abraham, the people flourished and multiplied in Egypt 18 until a different king who did not know Joseph ruled over Egypt. 19 He dealt deceitfully with our race and oppressed our ancestors by making them abandon their infants outside so that they wouldn't survive. 20 At this time Moses was born, and he was beautiful in God's sight. He was cared for in his father's home for three months. 21 When he was put outside, Pharaoh's daughter adopted and raised him as her own son. 22 So Moses was educated in all the wisdom of the Egyptians and was powerful in his speech and actions.

Transition: I want to show you 3 things today from these 4 women.

1) Pillars are creatively faithful in the face of evil power.

When Dr. Kimball was a fugitive- he unjustly lost a lot of authority. He didn't have a white coat anymore to be recognized as a doctor. He was cut off from his money and from the backing of a hospital...but that didn't stop him from being faithful to his calling as a healer...a life bringer.

But when he couldn't rely on his status as a doctor- he had to get creative.

The Hebrew midwives had to do the same thing.

First- notice that Pharaoh (which is his title, not a name) is never named here. Or in Exodus at all. But these 2 seemingly insignificant midwives- we get their names.

Naming is an act of honor. The subtle jab here is though Pharaoh thought he was in control through his power and position- these midwives are the real important characters.

v9-10 & 17

Also- notice the difference in the fear of Pharaoh vs the fear of the midwives.

Pharaoh is AFRAID to lose power.

But these Hebrew midwives FEAR nothing but God.

Fear of God= respect of God.

Think about this= Hebrew wives know the promise made to Abraham.

Genesis 12:2-3

2 I will make you into a great nation,

I will bless you,

I will make your name great,

and you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you,

I will curse anyone who treats you with contempt,

and all the peoples on earth

will be blessed through you.

So because they know this promise- they know that no matter how much it looks like Pharaoh has power- he actually doesn't.

They operate in fear or respect of God's promise...instead of the threats of a fearful king.

v 19

So, like Dr. Kimball had to get creative when he had no recognized authority- so these midwives got creative when they stood toe to toe with Pharaoh's manipulative power.

They either blatantly make-up a lie or exaggerate the truth in order to remain faithful to God's calling on their lives.

Now- you might be asking- is it ok to lie?

1- not what this passage is teaching- they are never commended for lying.

2- If you are ever faced with a situation where you are called to preserve life- and your motivation is to honor God and his word- then yes- i think misleading a powerful murderer for the sake of saving lives- I'll get behind that all day.

Hiding jews in WWII

v 20

Notice something about these midwives. It seem like they are without children themselves. What a beautiful risk and sacrifice. God doesn't always reward one to one. But sometimes he does.

The point i want you to see here is these women cared not merely about their own children and their own situation- they cared deeply about God's people- his children- his promises.

Back to 1)

You have to know God's word, develop convictions.

If you are going to stand up to evil power or social pressures- you have to know what God says.

These women are faithful to God's promises over Pharaoh's threats. They are the definition of pillars. Prayerfully cultivating with GRIT. Imagine them standing before pharaoh- seeing through his thin veil of power- to God's promise and presence.

Maybe you don't have position. or recognized authority. What can you do to faithfully cultivate in the position you're in?

2) Pillars sacrificially steward the under-developed work of God.

Every time Dr. Kimball followed his calling to help save a life- he risked being captured...and put back into his unjust sentence to die.

Meaning- every time he helped someone- he had to put his own interests aside- and risk his own life.

It was a sacrifice.

This is what Pillars do. They recognize their calling to bring to life to others...and risk their own safety...their own reputations...in order to serve.

But if you are going to do that- you also have to be able to recognize where God is at work... and keep at it.

Lets look at Moses' mom for this.

Exodus 2:2 & Acts 17:20

Moses' mother sees what God sees. Same word. BEAUTIFUL

This is more than skin deep. This isn't about being merely handsome and healthy- this is to see the life that God is going to bring to and THROUGH this boy.

But this is not yet developed. Moses is a baby.

v 3-4

Pharaoh believed to have God-like control over the Nile

Once again- in the face of power-

Moses' Mom- Creativity to subvert evil power because she recognizes the work of God. And she has modeled this faithfully for her daughter. So you see the work of God in this little girl- who will walk right up to Pharaoh's daughter. That takes a lot of Chutzpah. and Grit and courage. all to protect this underdeveloped beautiful work of God.

Moses will be a pillar but not yet. - but now he's fragile and helpless.

These women- Moses' mom and sister have to steward and protect while Moses is unimpressive.

Back to 2)

Partnering with God in the quiet places-

Don't post everything on socials- "You have your reward in full"- turning pillaring into platforming. Cultivating into consuming.

Something about quiet faithfulness- turns pillaring into platforming

Matthew 13:31-32

31 He presented another parable to them: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. 32 It's the smallest of all the seeds, but when grown, it's taller than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the sky come and nest in its branches."

Kingdom eyes that see the tree in the seed

Its one thing to jump on a movement when its en vogue- its another thing to see it through when nobody else sees it

Parents- this is your job

This is what it takes to plant a church. To start a ministry. To believe in someone and invest in them when so many people see it as a waste of time- or it brings you no public applause...or maybe worse- it brings you public derision or mockery.

Finally-

3) Pillars are compassionate & reliable in cruel times. They feel & follow-through.

Think about Dr. Richard Kimball- man kills his wife. the system has let him down. he's been unjustly sentenced to death. Even when he speaks to authorities about it- they don't care. He's been found guilty. Condemned to die.

If anyone would be tempted in that in injustice and cruelty to forget about other people- its Dr. Kimball. And yet he's gentle. Compassionate. and always follows through on his calling to preserve life.

Exodus 2:6

Pharaoh's daughter- though raised in a house of cruelty and abuse of power...is full of compassion.

But its not fleeting. Its not just in a moment. It lasts.

Acts 7:21-22

Pillars aren't just called to feel in a moment and forget. There has to be perseverance to see things through your calling. SOmetimes- thats handing off the work of God like the Midwives... and painfully- Moses' mom.

Other times its for the long haul- like Pharaohs' daughter.

She matches her initial compassion with ongoing follow through.

And it changes Moses' life. She gives him what he needs to lead.

And notice- she names him. Moses "I drew him out of water"

Of course- He would lead the exodus- where Moses would draw God's people through the water.

Luke 3:21-22

Jesus' baptism- he is "drawn out of water" as a son.

A kind of pronouncement of the under-developed work of God to come.

Jesus would be creatively faithful in the face of evil. Dying on a cross for a people, me and you, condemned to die for our sin.

He would undergo the injustice of the death of the innocent- in order to make a way for us to pass through the waters of God's justice unharmed.

He would steward the under-developed work of God in his disciples...and HELLO- in me and you- with the end in mind- Who we become when the Holy Spirit gets a hold of us.

Luke 23:34

Only difference- Jesus wasn't dying in spite of Pharaoh. He was dying FOR the pharaohs. Those who rejected him and killed him.

Which is what you and I did. Its the heart of our sin. We run to our power, our control our abilities our desires- instead of following his.

and he changes us. so we can follow through

Ephesians 2:8-10

For you are saved by grace through faith, and this is not from yourselves; it is God's gift — 9 not from works, so that no one can boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.

Finish with Ending of Fugitive. A man who “doesn’t care” to a man who does. From cruel to empathetic