

“Christmas at the Movies”

Week 4 – Rudolph

It's hard to believe, but Christmas is less than a week away! And the movie that we are looking at for week 4 of our Christmas at the Movies series is “Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.”

I need to admit something right off the bat, I've never seen the movie, but I have seen the TV show on numerous occasions. So, I'll have to assume the movie and the show are basically the same except maybe the movie gives more context and backstory for the characters and events. I think it's a safe assumption because Rudolph is a “Christmas Classic” and you just don't mess with a “Classic”. Whether you like the “Rudolph” story, or not, odds are you are going to watch either the movie or the TV show this Christmas season. For no other reason than it's a Classic, and that's just what we do during Christmas. You've probably heard it before; it's a family tradition. Far be it from me to break a family tradition.

Yes, I heard it before, because my family had its Christmas traditions, but it wasn't “Rudolph.” No, it was “The Homecoming: A Christmas Story,” or as we referred to it, “The Waltons Christmas.” I probably just lost most of the readers (both of them), but without exception, if it was Christmas, at some point we were watching “The Waltons Christmas.” Just as a little context, both my mom and dad grew up in South Georgia, on farms, in the post-depression era. So, this show, which had a very similar setting, brought back memories, both good and bad, of their early days. And for us kids, I'm sure there were other shows we'd rather be watching, but it was kind of neat to listen to the memories and stories that this show evoked for both my parents.

But wait a minute, that's enough of that dribble. This is supposed to be a Christmas Devotional, isn't it? Where's the spiritual stuff? You know, Jesus is “the reason for the season.” Yes, you're right, He absolutely is. And because of that, I think he would absolutely love the fact that we all have our family traditions. That during this time we celebrate His birth, we do so by gathering as families, and friends, and communities and enjoying a special time together. But we also do it by remembering those times that we have enjoyed in the past. So, whether it be a classic tv show, or movie, a family party or get together, or a silly gift exchange, enjoy and treasure those traditions. But, in all of it, never forget “the reason for the season”. And, of course, that reason is Jesus.

I'd be remiss if I didn't say one more thing. I understand that not everyone who is reading this has a family Christmas tradition or even remembers Christmas' past with any special fondness. To that, all I can say is that I am truly sorry. But wouldn't it be great if this Christmas was different. If this Christmas became your Christmas tradition. I pray it will be so.

So, to everyone, Merry Christmas! And may this be the merriest (so far) of many to come.

Again, Merry Christmas!