

Last Thursday, my dad, my brother, and I went to go see Avengers End Game. I know what some of you are probably thinking. Don't spoil End Game! But don't worry I'm not here to do that. For those of you not familiar with the Avengers, they are superhero movies. There is always a bad guy and always a team of good guys (the avengers) who save the day. They always win. Except for the last movie infinity war. In this movie the bad guy, Thanos, snapped his fingers and half the population disappeared leaving the Avengers defeated. The avengers end game movie picks up where infinity war left off. You would be surprised how what happens in the movie is very similar to this gospel lesson today.

Last week, we heard about doubting Thomas. Thomas was the one who did not believe Jesus had risen from the dead until he was able to see it. Honestly, if that happened to me and someone I knew died and then suddenly was alive again and I was only hearing it through rumors, I'm not sure what I would think. Thomas was lost. And understandably so. All of the disciples were lost and unsure of where to go from there. So what do they do? They go back to what they do best. They take a boat and go fishing. It's familiar to them. Natural.

In the Avengers Infinity War movie, the one before the most recent End Game release, all of those people had disappeared. Our group of super heroes who survived were lost. They felt defeated and didn't know where to turn. So what do they do? They go back to what they do best. For some of them that involved some bad stuff and I don't recommend that. The point is it was familiar to them. Natural.

This week we see the group of disciples out fishing and we could guess that this was an easy way out for them. The group was out on a boat, there were probably around 6 of them, they were about 100ft from shore. Doing this, they could easily go back to their old lives and forget they ever

followed Jesus. As they seem to be falling back into old ways while struggling to find fish, Jesus calls out from the shore and tells them to try the other side. Suddenly they catch tons of fish and their net is so full they can't even lift it into the boat.

In the movie, End Game, the superheroes are falling back into old habits too. It is easy for them to just move on and forget about all the work they had done. The group has to figure out if it is worth it to try. To get their family and friends back. Will they do "whatever it takes"?

Jesus calls the disciples to follow Him. He feeds them and reminds them that He needs them to continue following him, especially now. If the disciples left and forgot about their lives following Christ, all their work would have been for nothing.

The Avengers realize that they are called to do "whatever it takes". They have to try to fix everything and save all the people or else nothing they had done in the first place would be worth it.

Both the Avengers, our superheroes in the movie, and the disciples, our superheroes in Jesus's time, had to decide if it was worth it to do the right thing.

Jesus called to Peter to lead the disciples and to follow him. I think it is really interesting how all throughout Jesus's life he has asked people to "follow me". Then finally at this "turning point" you could say, he asks Peter to "follow me" yet again.

As I was thinking about this story, I talked to Mother Marie and she brought up a really good point. Peter was the best known superhero of the group of disciples. Our church is even named after him and he didn't stand up to the bad guy. Even with Peter letting down Jesus in that way, he is forgiven and given another chance.

This made me think back to the Avengers Infinity War movie. The Avengers were almost able to beat Thanos and win, but Captain America, one of the biggest or best known of the Avengers, was not there. We can guess that they lost to Thanos because he wasn't there. He felt guilty. Imagine how Peter felt too. Both Peter and Captain America are given second chances to make things right. The good guys will always win in the end because of Jesus.

There are times in our everyday lives where it seems easier to just move on and fall away from Jesus. I have had moments when I stray away from prayer and God because it seems easier to just not worry about it. I would think I didn't have enough time for Him with all the other things crowding my schedule. I would be stressed and overwhelmed and nothing could really help me. I eventually figured out that the one thing that could really help me was what I had seemingly forgotten about. I learned that following God and my faith was worth it. I am willing to do whatever it takes to keep my relationship with Him.

Father Furman likes to give you guys homework so I came prepared with some myself. Follow Jesus.