

Places in the Heart

I do not very often recommend movies, but I do recommend "Places in the Heart." Sally Field does one of her best roles. She is a wife and mother when the story begins and soon a young black youth accidentally kills her husband. The youth is then brutally killed by others. Sally Field's character faces the life of a mother without a husband during the Depression. It is going to be a hard life. But then someone brings a blind man as a boarder to her home. A black man comes and joins them as she shows mercy towards him, and he helps her grow cotton. She makes enough money to save her home from the bank and to continue giving to those with less. She takes on the role of Mother and Father with her children and she always shows mercy to those less fortunate. They thank God always for what they have. A tornado hits the town and people suffer. But all these things are not what intrigues me about this movie. It is the last scene that has always touched me. It is Sunday morning, and they are gathered in their small church. When we first see the congregation, it is a sparse crowd but as they pass communion the seats are full. There are many there, and you see the presence of those who are gone from their midst taking communion. The Pastor speaks words of love and mercy from the bible. The choir rises and sings 'In the Garden.' A very familiar hymn to many of us and is based on Mary seeking Jesus at the tomb. Communion is being passed as the choir sings. Soon you see people who are gone. A woman who was living in her car and was killed in the tornado, others that had killed as part of the "Klan." Communion comes to Sally Fields character, and she passes it to her husband whose presence is still beside her, he passes it to the young boy beside him who is the one who killed him and says, "Peace of God." Forgiveness abounds in this small church. It reminds me that people are not always judged by what is in their heart but by the cruel hate that is in other hearts. That forgiveness can come to all that seek it and that we are blessed when we give it to others.

Colossians 3:13 Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

Lord, be with us this day, may all we do be pleasing to you and done to your glory. Be with those who suffer, who are at war, who hunger, who suffer disease, those who grieve. Lord, we live in a world where war never ceases. May we reflect your love and mercy to all we meet and may we be a better people. Be with our church, may it be your church. Be with our Pastor, bless his service to us, be with him in all he does. Bless his family. Be with our leaders and workers in the church, strengthen them and may they feel you in all that they do. May we be the hands and feet of Jesus in all we do and say in this place and in this time. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen

Grace Epperson