

Summer of Cinema - Groundhog Day, 1993

Scripture:

John 8:57-59, 10:30-33, Luke 16:19-31, Psalm 139:1-6

Movie Summary:

February 2nd, Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania.

Weatherman Phil Connors reports the yearly Groundhog day with producer Rita and cameraman Larry. The groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, predicts 6 more weeks of winter and here begins the tale of Connors reliving the same day, February 2nd, over and over again.

*In trying to deal with his predicament Phil's goes through two different stages. First, he uses his situation for no good at all. Then after he realises he cannot kill himself he tries to make the best of his circumstances. **What does he do with his time now?***

Discussion:

Toward the end of the movie there is a scene in the local diner. Phil is trying to convince Rita that something unique has happened to him. He tells her "I am a god." Rita is unconvinced. She remains sceptical until he begins to describe the lives of all the people around them. She replies, 'What about me Phil? Do you know me too' 'I know you like boats but not the ocean, I know you're a sucker for French poetry.....I know everything about you.....'

Two things to discuss from this scene – claims of deity, and affection that motivates

How would you respond if someone came up to you today and said "I am a god." (perhaps you've had it happen to you or you know someone who claims this)? Why do we humans clamour for proof? What are the cultural influences for our need for proof?

How can we, as artists take comfort by truly knowing that God not only knows everything about us, but knows what we *like*? How can this spur us on to do what we do better and with confidence?

Interesting websites:

<http://www.touchstonemag.com/docs/issues/17.3docs/17-03-012.html>

Christian article referring to the New York Times article below.

<http://www2.kenyon.edu/Depts/Religion/Fac/Adler/Misc/GroundhogDay.htm>

New York Times article

http://www.schindler.org/psacot/20010813_ghd.shtml

Essentially from a Buddhist viewpoint but with lots of link to other sites.

Discussion compiled by Susan Enan and Kirk Irwin