

Cinderella Man Part 2 – Resurrection

By John Van Sloten

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[READING with slides]

CLIP #1 – 46:35 – 48:57 FREEZE... That's the face of **hope!**... washed up boxer Jim Braddock has just been given a **second chance**... after going through the terrible & humiliating death of poverty, shame and depression he's now being given a **second chance!** **an opportunity for redemption... a new life!**...

And **that's** what redemption looks like... **PAUSE**... and feels like... you have a **sense of gratitude for the future you've just been offered**... you smile, deep inside, b/c of good you've been given a foretaste of **PAUSE**... Spring is in the air... birds begin to sing... and life begins to green...

“Just one fight!”... was the coach's promise... **PAUSE** **But deep inside we know there's got to be more...** This is a Cinderella Story after all... has to be more! **PAUSE... (SLOWLY)** This is the story of Easter!...

(6)The movie, Cinderella Man, is a story of Easter... story of **death and resurrection**... story of a boxer who loses it all... only to get it all back (in spades!)... It's the **classic underdog story**... down and out, **rejected by man**, washed up, and hopeless then, **as the world doing it's collective 8 count**, getting up off the mat and standing again... the crowd going wild!...

PAUSE... (SLOW) ... the **underdog in us** going wild... the **weakness** in us finding strength... the **loser** in us tasting victory.... and **HOPE!** **EASTER's** all about!

In film, Braddock wins his 'one only' fight (of course)... goes on to win several more... **(7)**The **stone of death**, that so entrapped him, is rolled away, **he begins to step out into the light of life!**...

As the story begins to unfold... our unlikely hero develops/grows he becomes who **always meant to be!**... **who we always knew he was!**... **PAUSE**...

[SUPER Celtic music training]... the hopes of a nation rise with him!... **[the(true) James B. story lifted hopes of a 'depression scarred' nation!]** (Cinderella stories mean so much more when true eh?)

As we engage the story the part of us '**meant to believe that resurrections really do happen**' is kindled... we get drawn into the miracle!... **PAUSE**... deep inside we feel it... we believe in it!...

We really see this happening in Braddock's coach... as he watches his boxer begin to come alive... (**Scene** wife comes to complain, discovers the real nature of the hope that is hanging on her husband...)

CLIP #2 – 67:41 – 69:19 after “**no hope at all**”

We long for it... desperately... **PAUSE**... that coach **sells all he has to get it...** **PAUSE**... and in the story, (colourful language and all) he's this huge cheerleader! on the sidelines watching this resurrection occur **totally into it...with all he has in him...**

Several times watching his heart **OT Easter prophecies** came to mind... as I re-read them God sounded **like that coach...** **[IS 42 reading – 3 slides]**

When I first thought using Cinderella Man for Easter “How in the world boxing and Easter fit?”... **PAUSE**... then I read that passage... see **fierceness of God's**

saving heart... unrelenting determination... life and death importance of the task... does fit!... **PAUSE**

God did step into the ring... God did put it all on line... got bloodied...This is a life and death matter! (VERY SLOWLY) We're meant to **stand witness** to a **hero putting his life on the line**... meant to be in stands vicariously engaging in that battle... **PAUSE**... meant to taste that final victory!

That is what Easter is all about!... **PAUSE**... That's what it should feel like... **it ought to have the excitement and energy of a heavy weight title victory... (AT LEAST)...** **resurrection ought to bring us to our feet... give us a taste of glory!!!**

When's the last time the Easter story did that for you?

It's the most amazing story on earth(11)... a **fairy tale!** come true... a **new thing** has happened... **PAUSE** watching the victory celebration at the end of Cinderella Man (**earthy, colourful language and all!**), I couldn't help but think, "**This is what resurrection feels like... this is what Easter is all about!**"

All of the relief... hope of the nations... all of the restoration, renewal that victory brings!!!

CLIP #3 – 134:01 - 136:36 – FREEZE slow FADE

(12) READING #2 Isaiah 52

"Just watch my servant blossom!
Exalted, tall, head and shoulders above the crowd!
But he didn't begin that way.
At first everyone was appalled.
He didn't even look human--
a ruined face, disfigured past recognition. **PAUSE**

Nations all over the world will be in awe, taken aback,
kings shocked into silence when they see him.
For what was unheard of they'll see with their own eyes,
what was unthinkable they'll have right before them."

Isaiah 42...

Take a good look at my servant.

I'm backing him to the hilt. He's the one I chose,
and I couldn't be more pleased with him.
I've bathed him with my Spirit, my life.
He'll set everything right among the nations.
He won't call attention to what he does
with loud speeches or gaudy parades.
He won't brush aside the bruised and the hurt
and he won't disregard the small and insignificant,
but he'll steadily and firmly set things right.
He won't tire out and quit. He won't be stopped
until he's finished his work—
to set things right on earth...

...GOD steps out like he means business.

You can see he's primed for action.
He shouts, announcing his arrival (Boxer entry)
he takes charge and his enemies fall into line:
"I've been quiet long enough.
I've held back, biting my tongue.
But now I'm letting loose, letting go,
like a woman who's having a baby--
Stripping the hills bare, withering the wildflowers,
Drying up the rivers, turning lakes into mudflats.

But I'll take the hand of those who don't know the way,
who can't see where they're going.
I'll be a personal guide to them,
directing them through unknown country.
I'll be right there to show them what roads to take,

make sure they don't fall into the ditch.
These are the things I'll be doing for them--
sticking with them, not leaving them for a minute."

The Resurrection – The Gospel of Matthew 28:1-18

(1) After the Sabbath, as the first light of the new week dawned, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary came to keep vigil at the tomb. Suddenly the earth reeled and rocked under their feet as God's angel came down from heaven, came right up to where they were standing. He rolled back the stone and then sat on it. Shafts of lightning blazed from him. His garments shimmered snow-white. The guards at the tomb were scared to death. They were so frightened, they couldn't move.

(2) The angel spoke to the women: "There is nothing to fear here. I know you're looking for Jesus, the One they nailed to the cross. He is not here. He was raised, just as he said. Come and look at the place where he was placed.

"Now, get on your way quickly and tell his disciples, "He is risen from the dead. He is going on ahead of you to Galilee. You will see him there.' That's the message."

(3) The women, deep in wonder and full of joy, lost no time in leaving the tomb. They ran to tell the disciples. Then Jesus met them, stopping them in their tracks. "Good morning!" he said. They fell to their knees, embraced his feet, and worshiped him. Jesus said, "You're holding on to me for dear life! Don't be frightened like that. Go tell my brothers that they are to go to Galilee, and that I'll meet them there."

(4) Meanwhile, the guards had scattered, but a few of them went into the city and told the high priests everything that had happened. They called a meeting of the religious leaders and came up with a plan: They took a large sum of money and gave it to the soldiers, bribing them to say, "His disciples came in the night and stole the body while we were sleeping." They assured them, "If the governor hears about your sleeping on duty, we will make sure you don't get blamed." The soldiers took the bribe and did as they were told. That story, cooked up in the Jewish High Council, is still going around. Meanwhile, the eleven disciples were on their way to Galilee, headed for the mountain Jesus had set for their reunion. The moment they saw him they worshiped him. Some, though, held back, not sure about worship, about risking themselves totally.

(5) Jesus, undeterred, went right ahead and gave his charge: "God authorized and commanded me to commission you: Go out and train

everyone you meet, far and near, in this way of life, marking them by baptism in the threefold name: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Then instruct them in the practice of all I have commanded you. I'll be with you as you do this, day after day after day, right up to the end of the age."

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