

## 6:00 SESSION 4 (SJR MN, jpc)

**Movie Context:** Please have some popcorn and a drink as you sit down.

**Greeting:**

L: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

R: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be,

L: World without end.

R: Amen

- The **church used art** from early on to dramatize the **TWLI**. We are about to see a contemporary art form, a movie, to ground our understanding of God, Christ and Holy Spirit.
- If you've already seen the film, it will be **different experience this time** if we look at it through **theological glasses, following our** conversations about God/Christ/Holy Spirit.
- In a **big conversation afterwards**, we'll reflect on the movie as a **review of the first three sessions**.

Let's roll 'um. Enjoy.

**Movie:** "As Good as it Gets." (2 hours/10 minutes.)

**8:30** (Break)

**8:40 Conversation:** Let's see if we all saw the same movie.

**OBJECTIVE level**

**Scenes.** (Exterior, interior, with noise, music, settings). Go round (few words, e.g., "Simon talking to his mother")

**Lines.** ("I have to go out and buy a suit and they let you in wearing a house dress.")

**Characters:** minor—left any out?

**Plot sequence?**

**REFLECTIVE level**

**Favorite part** of the movie?

Who did you **like**? **Not like**?

Where did you **see emotion** on screen?

**Feel emotions** in yourself? (anger, laughter, physical reactions)

**Mood at the end** of the movie?

Character you **identify with**? (Surprised at anyone's answer)

Notice **mood shift in the group** during movie? During this **conversation**?

**INTERPRETIVE /THEOLOGICAL level**

What was the **movie about**, in **one word**? (several)

What was **Melvin's basic problem** at the **beginning**?

**Carol's? Simon's?**

Which of **Melvin's illusions burst**? What **triggered** it?

Was **Melvin changed**? From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_?

Which of **Carol's illusions burst**? What **triggered** it?  
Was **Carol changed**? From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_?  
Which of **Simon's illusions burst**? What **triggered** it?  
Was **Simon changed**? From \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_?  
Where did you see **Melvin** freely taking real **responsibility**? **Carol**? **Simon**?

**SO** where did you see the **activity of God** in this movie?  
(**repeat back** what you understand them to be **saying the "activity of God" is**)  
Where did you see the **Christ event** in this movie? (**repeat back...**)  
What is the **Word that got addressed to the 3 main characters** in this movie?  
Where did you see the **freedom style of the Holy Spirit** in this movie? (**repeat back...**)  
Why was it called "**As Good As It Gets**"? What's "**as good**" as it gets? (LIFE) Is this a **cynical statement** or a statement of **faith**?

### **DECISIONAL level**

What does this **movie say to us** in our life journey, our spirit journey?  
Was this a **religious** movie? **How so?** (lives got radically changed; redemption running thru it)

### **Conclusion**

When we can **look at what's going on** in life – even a **secular movie** – through our **faith symbols (G/X/HS/C)**, then our **faith** understanding is becoming a **determining factor** in our lives.

When we can point here and there to the **activity of God**, the **Christ Event**, the guidance of **H.S.**, the dynamic of the **Church**, our **faith symbols are real to us**. Our **Christian symbols can enliven** our real life.

**How** do you think you **scored as theologians interpreting this movie**? (maybe, How many give group A/B/C/D/F? show of hands.)

Well, **life is a movie**, as **Shakespeare reminds us**, always **demanding our interpretation** and our **response**.

**RAM: Life, at any given moment, is as good as it gets,/ because God/X/HS are always already present. Amen. (Amen.)**

## **9:35 "Heart of Creation Ritual"**

**Context:** exercise of whole person standing before all there is

See you at **7:00** for **worship and conversation, breakfast**, followed by a **seminar on Church**.

(Bow) "**Good Night. Namaste.**"

**9:45**