The Holocaust

Film Title: **Schindler's List**

Wing Clip Name: **One More Person**

**Main Idea:** The regrets of not doing all that we can when it matters most.

**Scene Set Up:** After successfully saving over 1100 Jews, Schindler regrets that he

could have saved more lives.

**Application:** Everyone has a worldview and set of beliefs that evolve from their family upbringing, cultural influences, and personal life experiences that help to make sense of reality and ultimately shape one's values. These values then become the foundation for ones' behaviour and decisions we make. However, sometimes circumstances emerge that confront one's existing worldview and shakes the corresponding value system.

Schindler was facing such a dilemma. His conscience was becoming progressively aware of the evil that was unfolding around him, and his unique position to help those who were suffering because of it. Initially, his values were clashing. First and foremost, he was a businessman, and in helping to harbour Jews in his factory, noble and dangerous as it was, it was also convenient as it served his desire to be successful and wealthy.

Over time however, compassion grew in his heart and a certain realization of the sanctity of life began to press upon his soul. In the end, he was overwhelmed by it all, consumed with the reality that he could have saved more lives. Material things no

longer held any value, instead they detracted from that which he now embraced as valuable, and were stark reminders of what might have been. Those who surrounded

him were exceedingly grateful, but he was inconsolable. "I could've gotten one more

person," he lamented, while clutching his lapel pin, the culminating symbol of his eternal regrets. While he had saved many, he had not done all that he could when it

mattered most.

**QUESTIONS**

The application to our own lives is compelling... even haunting.

* Compare yourself to Schindler and wonder how your value system would hold up when faced with similar circumstances?
* Would you allow evil to prosper or would you take a stand?
* Would you turn a blind eye to the victims who are perishing, or would you risk everything and intervene?

We may not be living in a war zone, where people are being systematically exterminated, but it's not a stretch to say that our circumstances are comparable. The characters and contexts have changed but the story remains the same. The sanctity of life remains under assault. All over the world lives are being persecuted, enslaved, aborted, and oppressed. The opportunity to intervene and save lives is as

great as any time in human history. Will we have regrets?

The sanctity of life bids our conscience to defend it at all costs. When Schindler read the inscription upon the ring that said, "He who saves one life saves the world entire," it bore witness to what his spirit had known all along but the significance of which his mind and emotions were only beginning to grasp. The value of even just one life is beyond measure and it must be defended accordingly. Indeed, it was God who first breathed life into existence, and when it was lost, He paid the ultimate price to redeem it. Such sacrifice demonstrates the value of our own lives before God and implores us to preserve the sanctity of life whenever and wherever it is endangered.

**Scriptural Links:**

**Matthew 16:26**

26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

**The Parable of the Talents**

**Matthew 25:14-18** 14 “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents,[[a](http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2025:14-18%20&version=NRSVCE#fen-NRSVCE-28293a)] to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16 The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.”

In the parable of the talents, the Lord calls us to invest everything he has given us into the kingdom that we may gain the maximum return. When it's all said and done, will we feel like the "good and faithful servant" celebrating the lives we were able to save, or will we be collapsing with regret, and stammering those fateful words, "I could've saved one more person?"