

Reflection questions for March of the Penguins

1. As of this week March of the Penguins has made over \$77 million at the box office. Why do you think it has done so well?
2. Many people have criticized the film for projecting human emotion onto these penguins. Why do you think we do that? What about this story resonates with our emotions?
3. The tagline of the film is “In the harshest place on earth, love finds a way.” What do you think of this tagline? Does it capture the essence of the film?
4. What about the relationship between the father and mother penguins and the journey that having a chick involves connects with your idea of what love is or should be?
5. How do you think it is that penguins find their way to the meeting place every year? Do we have this sort of radar in our lives, something that can't be explained but is true?

Wrap-Up

Many people will agree that Jesus was a man who loved other people. What is interesting though, is that his definition of love is often different than the one we adopt. His love wasn't about a feeling, or the way someone looks or even about enjoying someone's company. In the biographies of Jesus' life he consistently explained that true love is found in service and sacrifice. Jesus said that he did not come to earth to be served but to serve others.¹ He also said that the greatest demonstration of love is when you give your life for your friends.² I think it is this sacrificial act that we find so fascinating in the March of the Penguins. It is hard to believe that they go through such intense trial to give birth to children. It is also amazing that they always know how to get to the gathering point even though the way there changes each year. It's as if they are “guided by some invisible compass inside them” as the narrator says. The female penguins even show back up with food at almost the exact time that the baby chicks are hatched. This is both marvelous and crazy. Author Don Miller sees this as a metaphor for faith. He says “They have this radar inside them that told them when and where to go and none of it made any sense, but they show up on the very day their babies are being born, and the radar always turns out to be right. I have a radar inside of me that says to believe in Jesus. Somehow, penguin radar leads them perfectly well. Maybe it isn't so foolish that I follow the radar that is inside of me.” He later says “You'd go crazy trying to explain penguins. It's best to watch them and be entertained. I don't think you can explain how Christian faith works either. It is a mystery. And I love that about Christian spirituality. It cannot be explained, and yet it is beautiful and true. It is something you feel, and it comes from the soul.” May we become people who show our love to others through service and sacrifice, and follow the compass that exists in our soul pointing us towards God.

¹ Matthew 28:20 “the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many”

² John 15:13 “Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends.”