

Reflection questions for The Exorcism of Emily Rose

1. This movie was marketed as a horror film. Do you agree with that label? How would you describe this film to a friend?
2. The movie was based on an actual events that took place in Germany. Are you surprised that the priest was prosecuted for his role in Emily's death?
3. Was the jury's verdict and sentence fair? Why or why not?
4. How much impact to you think the spiritual world has on our daily lives?
5. The main point of the film seemed to be that the spiritual world exists. Do you agree that there is more to the world than the physical?

Wrap-Up

The director of The Exorcism of Emily Rose, Scott Derrickson, said this about the movie: "My intention is to make a film that provokes people to ask themselves what they believe about evil, what they believe about the demonic. Inevitably when you ask questions like that you end up asking yourself what you think about God, what you think about morality, and what you think about the nature of memory and truth."

It is always challenging to consider the spiritual realm, even when it is presented in movie form. There are so many questions and so many ideas about what it might or might not be like that often it is easier not to think about it. Jesus though, seemed to believe that there was more to this life than just the physical. Over and over again Jesus talked about another reality, about the Kingdom of God, that could not be seen but existed nonetheless. In his biographies it even recounts a conversation he has with the Devil while in the wilderness. Jesus responds to Satan's urging to turn stones into bread so he could relieve his hunger with these words: "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."¹ Jesus seems to indicate that there is more to keeping a person healthy than food, water, and rest. There is an aspect of spiritual health that is just as important if not more so than physical health.

Many people believe that there is more to life than what we can see, hear, taste and touch. The Exorcism of Emily Rose challenges all of us to consider what we think about the spiritual realm. It calls us not to ignore this complicated issue, but to confront it. If there is a spiritual realm what is it like? Where can I go for answers? What does that ultimately mean for my life and the lives of others? These are all questions that are worth asking and I encourage to wrestle with them. Perhaps we are spiritual beings and the people around us are spiritual as well as physical and emotional. If that is so, our lives are very significant and the way we treat each other matters more deeply than we've ever realized.

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¹ Matthew 4:4 quoting Deuteronomy 8:3b