MEETING JESUS AT THE MOVIES GUIDE



CODA

2021, 1 hr 51 min

Emilia Jones, Marlee Matlin, Tony Katsur, Eugenio Derbez

Themes: Family, Community, Vocation, Sacrifice

Focus: St. Paul urges families to love one another, to strive to implement the listed virtues in their lives after the example of Jesus. As a CODA (child of deaf adults), Ruby also tries to live virtuously by aiding her family in every way she can, even as she struggles to follow her dream of going to music school.

Scripture: Colossians 3: 12-14, 16, 18-21

So, then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with true compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, patience; bear with one another and forgive each other if anyone has a grievance against someone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, you too should do the same. But over all these things put on love, which perfects and binds the whole. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish each other with all wisdom; sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God with thanks in your hearts. Wives, be subject to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. Husbands, love your wives and don't be harsh with them. Children, obey your parents in all things, for that is pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, don't cause your children to be resentful, so they won't become discouraged. (Alternative Scripture—Mt 5: 13-16)

For Reflection and Conversation:

- 1. What impressed you most about this film? Which character(s) most inspired you and why? Did anything about the Rossi family dynamics 'speak' to you? If so, what and why? How did Ruby embody the virtues St. Paul mentions? How do you embody these virtues?
- 2. Ruby felt compelled by family loyalty to give up her own dreams in order to help with the family business. Have you ever felt that way? Have life situations ever caused you resentment? How do you deal with that? How can Ruby's experience help you?
- 3. *CODA* depicts the deaf culture very authentically. Have you ever encountered deaf people personally? What would you do if you did to treat them with respect? How would you interact with them? Why is it important to include those who are different in community?
- 4. Miles experienced Ruby's family very differently than Ruby did. Why? What did Miles see in Ruby's parents that inspired him? Could your living of family life be an example to others? Why or why not? How might you improve so as to be a better example?
- 5. Talk about the transformation that Ruby's family experiences as they begin to realize that she wants to sing and once she leaves for school. How did that come about? What fears may be holding you back from engaging with your community? How can you overcome those fears?

Closing Prayer:

Lord God, you call us to live virtuously within all our relationships but especially within our families. Make our families places that offer inspiration and example for others. May we welcome those who are different from ourselves and have the courage to sing your praises in all situations. Amen.

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Cinema Divina Guide

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Cinema Divina:

Lectio: What is the story about? What do the words and images, characters, form, and genre say to me? How does Ruby embody the virtues St. Paul mentions? How do I? What do I think of the Rossi family dynamics? Have I ever been resentful of what life dealt me? How did I deal with that? What part does gratitude have in my life? How would I interact with deaf people if I encountered them? What might I do to prepare for such an encounter? How did Miles see Ruby's family life? Is my own family life lived in a way that could be an example to others? How did the Rossi family show their love for each other? Why is it important to be part of a community? How did Ruby's parents let go of their fears once she left for school? How do I deal with my own fears? What inspired me most about the film?

Meditatio: What part of today's Scripture reading and which part of the movie "chose" you?

Oratio: Let your spontaneous prayer flow from reading and meditating on the film and/or Scripture.

Contemplatio: Spend some time relishing the film as a spiritual experience.

Actio: As a result of viewing this film and praying with it, what concrete action is the Holy Spirit calling you to take beyond the film into your everyday life and the world?

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