

## LESSON TEN: THE FACE OF EVIL

*Kill Bill* premiered in October, 2003. The movie is rated “R.” It features seven arm severings, five leg severings, two hatchet deaths, and a close-up scalping. 45 individuals are slain by swords, and a pregnant woman gets shot in the head. The film’s director, Quentin Tarantino had this to say about the film: “If you’re a 12-year-old girl or boy, you must go and see *Kill Bill*. You will have a d—n good time. Boys will have a great time, girls will have a dose of girl power. If you are a cool parent out there, go take your kids to the movie.” The bad news is that *Kill Bill* is an outstanding success, because people are lining up to see the movie. Thus, for evil to triumph, it takes only a few good people to do nothing,

**PRAY:** Father in heaven, when we pray to You as Jesus taught us to pray, we ask You to deliver us from evil. Help us to seek Your face, because we live in a world in which we are surrounded by evil. O Lord, deliver us from evil for Jesus’ sake. Amen.

**INTRODUCTION:** Bad news seems exempt from the laws of the universe. You can follow the rules, eat right, exercise daily, sleep well, love your neighbor, love yourself, go to church, be honest with the IRS, give blood, vote, attend PTA meetings, remember your mother’s birthday, tell no ethnic jokes, write thank-you notes, recycle, clean your refrigerator, read the Bible, serve dinner at the shelter, wear clean underwear, get your teeth cleaned—and still bad news happens to you. Like an obnoxious relative, bad news just keeps showing up again and again.

—Howard Hanger, “Chutzpah!” *Vision*, January 24, 1997, 3.

**BIBLE BASE:** Read John 8:31-47.

**DISCUSS:** (The following questions are for discussion. You may fill in the answers in the space provided.)

Who was Jesus addressing in this discussion?

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Why did the Jews mention that they were the Seed of Abraham?

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What does it mean to be a slave of sin?

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How did the hostile Jews betray their spiritual heritage?

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Why did the hostile Jews make the claim that they were not born of fornication?

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Why did Jesus tell them that they were children of the devil?

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How did Jesus describe the devil?

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Jesus and the devil are opposites. How?

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**CHALLENGE:** Talk about what your group can do to help your congregation find ways to combat evil like that which is seen on movies and on television.

**CLOSING THOUGHTS:** Rape, murder, homophobia, misogyny, wanton drug abuse—in the course of the 70-minute disc, 26-year-old Eminem (a.k.a. Slim Shady, nZ Marshall Mathers) raps about it all in graphic detail. And the youth of America are listening—avidly, in great numbers. Already, The Marshall Mathers LP has become the fastest-selling hip-hop album in history, with more than 5 million copies bought since its release. The disc is red hot in every sense, drawing the ire of gay-rights groups, feminists, parents and pundits outraged by its content.

Of course, lyrically scandalous rap and rock albums are nothing new. What distinguishes the Marshall Mathers LP—and what has a growing cross section of shocked adults asking the rhetorical question, Eminem: Clown Prince or Menace?—is the sudden ease and enthusiasm with which a mainstream of teens and preteens is absorbing its corrosive vision.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Almighty God, Your Son has revealed to us that He is the Way and the Truth and the Life. Send us Your Holy Spirit to empower us and equip us to resist evil. Help us to seek the face of Jesus, and use us to reflect the light of Christ to shine the truth in this world filled with evil. Envelop us in Your grace and keep us safe from all evil attempts against us. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.