



AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

THE POWER OF THE RING: INVISIBILITY

*“Three Rings for the Elven-kings under the sky,
Seven for the Dwarf-lords in their halls of stone,
Nine for Mortal Men doomed to die,
One for the Dark Lord on his dark throne
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.
One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them,
One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.”*

This week, we began to look more deeply at the “one ring” about which Tolkien’s entire saga revolves. This is an object of great power, and because of this power it becomes the ultimate desire of good and evil alike. These powers, however, come at a cost. Despite the extraordinary gifts that the bearer of the “one ring” is able to possess, they all eventually become enslaved by the darkness that brought the ring into being.

This week, we discussed the power of invisibility that is bestowed upon the one who wears the ring. Whether it is through HG Wells’ *The Invisible Man* or JK Rowling’s *Harry Potter* series, invisibility is a staple in fantasy and folklore that almost anyone can identify with. It becomes a means by which heroes can sneak around unnoticed and villains can attack when we are most vulnerable.

So this begs the question...why would an object as sinister as the “one ring” manifest that power through something as seemingly simple as invisibility? Why would this trait be so appealing to the rulers of great nations?

The answer is simple; invisibility satisfies our fears of being seen for who we really are. Many people desire nothing more than the ability to do whatever they want, whenever they want, and without accountability to their peers. This is the very thing that the “one ring” promises through its gift of invisibility.

WEEKLY CHALLENGE

This week, ask yourself what you are hiding from. What part of yourself are you afraid to show to friends, family, and peers? Why might you be afraid to show yourself as you truly are?

I challenge you to find one person this week and begin to share, who you really are a little bit. I’m not pushing you to share your deepest, darkest secrets with an absolute stranger, but I am inviting you to experience the freedom that comes when we embrace ourselves as we really are.

Additional Resources: Maybe instead of worrying about not being seen, we should re-learn how to see...
vimeo.com/49803870

Genesis 3:8-12: ⁸They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, ‘Where are you?’ ¹⁰He said, ‘I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.’ ¹¹He said, ‘Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?’ ¹²The man said, ‘The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.’

Matthew 18:15-20: ¹⁵If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.’

- Scriptures from the New Revised Standard Version -

REFLECTIONS