

Sacrifice

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” John 15:12-13

Central to the superhero genre is the notion of sacrifice. What makes anyone a hero is his or her willingness to sacrifice themselves (not just their physical selves but their emotions and desires too) for others or a higher cause. What makes a villain is their readiness to sacrifice others for their own desires. This plays out clearly between Peter Parker/Spider-Man and Harry Osborn/Green Goblin.



Throughout the film, Spider-Man consistently puts himself in positions of physical harm where he is willing to sacrifice his body to protect or help others. Without the suit, Peter Parker is willing to sacrifice his emotions and desire to be with Gwen Stacey in order to keep her safe and to honor his promise to her dying father.

On the other hand, Harry Osborn consistently uses others in his quest for power and the destruction of Spider-Man. His company uses animals in medical testing. He tricks Max into working for him to defeat Spider-Man. He tells Max that he needs him, playing on Max’s insecurities. Harry is happy to sacrifice others as long as they help him reach his end goal.

While you might not be in physical danger like Spider-Man, you most likely make sacrifices on a regular basis. The younger you are, the more others sacrifice for you. Your parents change their plans and desires in order to give you what you need and/or want. Every day, you have the option to sacrifice yourself for the good of others. Will you make that choice?

Discussion Questions

- 1 Think about your future. What are you willing to sacrifice to make your dreams a reality?
- 2 Think about your life now. How do you sacrifice for others? Who sacrifices for you?