

CINDERELLA MAN: DOWN BUT NOT OUT

Roger Ebert: Most serious movies live in a world of cynicism and irony, and most good-hearted movie characters live in bad movies.

James Braddock is _____: that's what makes him so "relatable."

What makes Braddock heroic is how he takes the punches, and keeps answering the bell, coming out round after round, maybe knocked down, but never knocked out.

WHY IS BRADDOCK A HERO?

1. HIS _____.

Stephen Hunter: He (Braddock) was as humble as he was heroic and as heroic as he was strong and as strong as he was noble.

Braddock is noble and strong and heroic not in spite of being humble, but because he is humble.

Humility is not the virtue of wimps and weaklings.

Men who are weak can never be humble; they can only be _____.

Humility is the characteristic of men

who know who they are,

who are certain of their self-worth and

who consequently feel they have nothing to _____ and nothing to lose.

That kind of man can do what the moment calls for, even when others view it as humiliating, because he knows that a man's dignity is not determined by what he does nearly as much as by _____ he does it.

Philippians 2.3-8: Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!

What gets men into trouble more than anything else?

Our _____.

THE PRIDE THAT RUINS OUR LIVES AND OUR RELATIONSHIPS

It's not just the pride that thinks it's always right and won't admit that it's wrong.

It's the pride that won't let us admit our needs because we think that having needs makes us weak – so we stay needy and _____.

The pride that won't let us open up to others because we're fearful that we'll be rejected if people know who we really are – so we stay afraid and _____.

The pride that won't ask for help or accept it when it's given because men are supposed to be self-sufficient and strong – so we stay out of touch with our humanity and we don't receive the _____ or experience the joy that God wants to give us through others.

Why is James Braddock a hero?

Not really because he defeated Max Baer, but because he defeated his pride and lived with the kind of humility that has nothing to prove and nothing to lose.

2. HIS _____.

James Braddock: I've had some good fortune. I'm back in the black. And I just thought I **should** return it.

Men who are weak and too afraid of the consequences to get in trouble – we see that.

Men who are strong and brutish – we see that.

But men who are truly strong and genuinely good – when you see that it will impress you because you will feel that you have been in the presence of someone who is honorable and dignified, even _____.

And you will be inspired to be more than you are.

Roger Ebert: (Cinderella man is) ... a full-length portrait of a good man. Here is a movie where a good man prevails in a world where every day is an invitation to despair, where resentment would seem fully justified, where doing the right thing seems almost gratuitous because nobody is looking and nobody cares.

For James Braddock doing the right thing is not unimportant because no one cares; it is essential because he will care.

Abraham Lincoln: I desire to conduct the affairs of this administration that ... when I lay down the reins of power, if I have lost every other friend on earth, I shall have at least one friend, and that friend shall be down inside me.

Jim Braddock's life is an invitation to be honorable men.

It tells us that even if no one else is looking and no one else cares, we will know.

And it tells us that the price we must pay for honor is never _____.

3. HIS _____.

Heroes love someone so much, care about something so deeply, or are committed to some cause so passionately, that they simply cannot quit.

Heroes can die trying.

But they cannot _____ trying.

Every hero lives out of his heart – every hero ultimately wins his battles from the inside out.

Life can take your house, and it can take your stocks.

It can take your job and it can take your plans.

But life cannot take your heart.

The hero's battle is always man against _____.

But before the hero can defeat his enemy, he must win a battle within himself.

Before a hero can be successful on the battlefield, there is first

some commitment that must be made,

some _____ that must be faced,

some lie that must be rejected,

some risk that must be taken,

some sacrifice that must be made,

some _____ that must be overcome,

some truth that must be claimed.

In every great story the most important battle is always fought and won in the heart of the hero.

Jim Braddock: I'm training for a fight. Not a boxing contest or a clownin' contest or a dance. Whether it goes one round or three rounds or ten rounds, it will be a fight and a fight all the way. When you've been through what I've had to face in the last two years, a Max Baer or a Bengal tiger looks like a house pet. He might come at me with a cannon and a blackjack, and he would still be a picnic compared to what I've had to face.

2 Corinthians 4.7-9: We are like clay jars in which this treasure is stored.

The real power comes from God and not from us. We often suffer, but we are never crushed. Even when we don't know what to do, we never give up. In times of trouble, God is with us, and when we are knocked down, we get up again.

4. HIS _____.

On the most basic level, Cinderella Man is about a man who's trying to keep his family together, warm and fed.

It's less about what it feels like to win the heavyweight championship and more about what it feels like to see your children hungry and cold.

What drove Braddock was not a desire for glory or fortune; but he fought for _____ - for his family.

Whatever dragon you have to slay, whatever battle you have to fight “out there,” what matters most is being a hero to your wife and your kids.

Teddy Roosevelt: It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.