

FAITH IN CONTEXT

Tom Hanks, Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio, Angelina Jolie, Daniel Day-Lewis, Christian Bale, Sylvester Stallone, and Hilary Swank.

What do all of these famously successful actors have in common? They are Method Actors.

A very rigorous and demanding thespian art, Method Acting truly subsumes the life of any actor who dares practice it. Its process involves meticulous study of a character role, removal of the actor's self-identity, and complete imitation of that character-role as if they actually were this other person.

In fact, actors can become so consumed by their role that some have almost died (E.g., Stallone), suffered permanent physical damage (Bale), or nearly lost their minds (Day-Lewis). Yet, these actors will tell you the key to their cinema success is Method Acting.

How oddly similar this process is for the Christian! We study our Savior meticulously (*His teachings, actions, and Passion*), we attempt to fully deny ourselves (Mt 16²⁴; Lk 9²³), and we even do our best to imitate Christ almost as if we were Him [or Him in us] (Rom 8¹⁰⁻¹¹; 1 Cor 11¹; Gal 2²⁰)!

Yet, how eerily similar we can also be to the actor who finishes the role: when the show is finished, it's as if they never really were the person they played. It's as if when the Christian turns their eye away from God's Word, they forget immediately who they are supposed to be as a child of God (Jms 1²³⁻²⁴).

Our faith is not to be trivialized as a mere show, nor am I intending to make it seem that way, but we have the amazing ability to either be devoted to *acting* like a Christian or *being* one.

One is death, the other is life – choose wisely.

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