

Lent, Day 34
Saturday, April 13, 2019

Revelation 19:1–4

I've mentioned before how much I like movies. One type of movie I like is the underdog victory. This often finishes with "the slow clap." It is completely cheesy if you come in only for that part, but powerfully emotional if you watch the whole journey. One of my favourites is the movie, *Rudy*. This is about a young man who has the dream his whole life to play football for Notre Dame.

The odds against him are astronomical and at every turn he is dissuaded. He's told to give up his dream and he's scoffed at by his community. But Rudy is a man of heart and he won't let go. He keeps doing everything he can, first to get into the school. Once in he goes out for the practice team. There, his heart causes players of the Fighting Irish to get frustrated. His enthusiasm and dedication shows up their own half-hearted play.

Rudy asks the coach for a favour, to let him dress—not play—so his Dad could see him in a Notre Dame uniform; so he would know that he had made the team. The coach agrees, but then is traded and a new coach comes and will not uphold the promise. Until, one by one, the players on the team lay their own jersey's on the coaches desk and ask for Rudy to play in their place. The coach finally submits to the pressure and agrees to allow Rudy to dress.

Once on the field, the stands are packed with fans, including Rudy's parents, siblings, friends, and mentors. Then the captain of the team wants Rudy to play. He talks to the coach—its a definite no!—then he starts a chant, slowly, "Rudy! Rudy! Rudy! Rudy!" The other players begin to pick it up, then the stands, then the whole stadium chanting Rudy's name. It's a powerful moment. I could go on, it builds even from there.

Something similar is happening in our passage. God has judged Babylon, the one who had led to so much idolatry. He has put her away once and for all. Now can come the great and long awaited wedding. So, once again, we are back in the heavenly throne room filled with the call to praise God. It's the ultimate victory. The slow claps to end all slow claps. God has won!

Prayer

Holy and Righteous One, bless your name for you have won the victory and have overcome sin and death. Make us ready for the great wedding and feast to come. Amen!