Magnificent Seven: Redemption

Imagine a person committing an act for the greater good, but he or she knows that the outcome can be extravagant or disastrous. Why would that person do such a deed knowing the worst can happen? The answer is redemption. Redemption is when people are saved from their past, which allows them to move on. In Antoine Fuqua's remake of the Magnificent Seven, the movie takes a different perspective than most cliché western movies. Through a desperate town under siege of a corrupt business man, seven outlaws, and fighting for what the town and the outlaws believe in, Antoine Fuqua preaches redemption.

In the beginning of the film, the very first scene is a packed church. Within the church, people are not worshipping; the people are trying to figure out how they could dispose of the tyrant, Bogue. The setting of the church represented the ounce of hope that the town faintly had grasp of, but when Bogue busted through the doors and decided to burn the church down, the town's hope was relinquished. However, Emma's husband decided to stand up for what he believed in and was not going to bow down to this tyrant. By speaking up, Bogue made an example out of him by killing him. The death of Emma's husband lit a fire inside her to where she was going to do whatever it takes to seek revenge. Even though she did not know it, Emma carried the hope of the town.

Now, the title the "Magnificent Seven" creates the question of what makes these men magnificent? These men do not have any magnificent bones in their bodies before becoming
members of this team. These men are meandering through everyday life without purpose. Furthermore, the team is recruited by gold or a bribe. Chisolm states to the third recruit of the seven, "There's a lot of bounty hunters after you. If you join me, I won't be one of them" (Fuqua). Chisolm had a shotgun pointed at him, and the outlaw decided to join him even though death was a possibility as did the others.

After the Magnificent Seven's battle when they first entered the town, the Magnificent Seven restored hope within most of the town. As of that moment, the town decided that they were going to redeem their selves by learning to use weapons to defend their town. Even though every member of the Magnificent Seven knew that his life could be lost when the siege of the town begins, every one of them stayed except one. Goodnight decided to run away the night before. Kahler suggests that Goodnight "suffers through a crisis of confidence" (3). However, Goodnight is running away from his demons instead of having a lack of confidence.

Before the ultimate battle, Chisolm states to Faraday, "You no longer owe me for your horse" (Fuqua). When Chisolm makes that statement, he tells Faraday that he does not have to be involved in this fight. Faraday stays because he has found peace with himself. Every member had the right to leave, and they all stayed. Goodnight made his return during the final stretch of the battle, which was a major contribution to the town's victory. Burghaus and Cartagena states, "Human beings can reflect on their lives and reflect on who they are and who they want to be" (600). In this very moment, the magnificent seven decided to fight for people they did not know because it was the moral and just action.

In conclusion, the moral of Fuqua's "Magnificent Seven" is redemption. Even though the town had to be encouraged by the outlaws removing the bandits enforcing Bogue's control, they redeemed themselves by learning to fight, which led them to winning their town back. The seven
outlaws did not join the fight because of the town's situation. The outlaws joined due to their incentives. However, when death was very possible and even outweighed the reward, they still decided to fight. Fighting for this town was their redemption, and if they died in the process, they were fine with that. By being redeemed, a person is set free.
Works Cited

