

## Iron Man

Tony Stark is a formidable man. As head of Stark Industries, he is a multi-billionaire. He is proud, arrogant, and self-centered -- up until the moment where he is captured. Describe how Stark's attitude changes from before the attack on his convoy to after. Stark describes himself as a man who has "everything," yet really has "nothing." How does he come to that assessment of his life? Why do so many people admire and envy the wealthy? Read Matthew 16:25-26 and Luke 12:15. Explain how these verses relate to the life that Stark is leading. How do these verses give perspective to your own life?

After nearly losing his life, Stark finds himself held captive in a cave with Yinsen, a doctor who has saved Stark's life. Yinsen sacrifices himself to allow Stark to complete his mission. Describe how worthy you think Stark was to receive that sacrifice. What condition does Yinsen place upon Stark as a reasonable response to Yinsen's sacrifice? What are our obligations toward those who have sacrificed themselves on our behalf? Read Romans 5:6-8 and 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. What do these verses reveal about a sacrifice, made to give you a second chance, and your initial "worthiness" to receive it? What is your reasonable response to that sacrifice?

Stark believes that he has survived his ordeal for a reason. His capture has led to an epiphany. He suddenly becomes aware of a higher purpose in his life. You might even say that Stark has found his Calling. What did Stark value before he was captured? What does he value after he escapes? What about his capture made the difference? How does Stark's life

reflect his newfound priorities? Read Luke 19:2-10. Who was Zaccheus before his encounter with Christ? What do you think might have happened during supper that so changed Zaccheus? How does Zaccheus respond? Define atonement.

When Stark returns home, he turns over a new leaf. He begins to work to perfect the Iron Man suit. Once he thinks he is ready, he decides to take it for a test flight, over the objections of Jarvis, the voice of his computer's artificial intelligence. All seems well as Stark flies around. When he lands on the rooftop of his house, he seems very satisfied with himself. And then what happens? Read Proverbs 16:18. How does this verse apply, in general, to Tony Stark? What is it about pride that makes it destructive?

Once Stark turns his life around, things don't suddenly go better for him. Who opposes Stark's new way of doing business, and why do they do it? Describe the lengths to which Stark's opponents are willing to go in order to keep Stark from mending his ways. Why is opposition so fierce when we choose to do what is right? What marks Stark as a better man is his willingness to sacrifice, even to lay down his life, for his principles. Read Hebrews 11 for a list of the heroes of the faith. Describe the different ways these people finished their lives. Why were their sacrifices worthwhile?

### Movie's Sermon General's Warning:

Iron Man contains relatively bloodless action violence, some suggestive content, and brief mild vulgar language.