

A RABBI CONSIDERS ‘AMERICAN SNIPER

The Hollywood blockbuster with a record breaking \$200 million in box office receipts during its first 10 days in theaters earned intense interest from heartland audiences, but has sparked much commentary, pro and con. “American Sniper” moves people for many reasons.

“So why are so many people on the Left attacking the film?” asks Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, founder of the Values Network. “The answer lies in our failure to hate evil. What American Sniper is really about is the battle by decent men against truly dark forces of wickedness. The American soldiers who battle the terrorists in Iraq do not hide their contempt for the killers. They hate them, despise them, loathe them, and want to kill them. Not because they have any bloodlust and not because they enjoy violence. Rather, they are committed to life and are well aware of the fact that the only way to prevent the murderers from slaughtering the innocent is through the necessary evil of conflict,” Rabbi Boteach writes in an op-ed for the New York Observer.

“Which brings me to this conclusion. **The most accurate standard in judging our commitment to humanity is the extent to which we fight to preserve life.** For some that fight involves research in a lab to defeat cancer. For others it involves climbing a ladder in a terrible inferno to rescue a stranded child. And for some it involves going to war against barbarous terrorists so that they cannot blow up pregnant women. Hating evil is just as important as loving the good. Because if you don’t, you’re likely to give evil a pass,” the rabbi notes.

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