

Summary: *A Few Good Men*

A Few Good Men is a movie that unveils the good, the bad, and the ugly of the justice system as operated by humans, as well as the rights and wrongs of people themselves. The issues of ethics and moral are multifaceted in the film. It brings up the oppositions and dilemmas such as order vs. personal choice. It illuminates the court's corridors of power where prosecution and defense do what a regular person would compare to bargaining people's lives. It shows how friends in life must play on the opposite sides of the courtroom barricades and show professionalism regardless of whether the defendant is a good or bad person, guilty or innocent.

The central theme of *A Few Good Men* is a case that may seem plain but is, in fact, multi-layered. The case teaches Kaffee and all the viewers that a thorough job of justice agents enables them to find the true victims and the true offenders, or reveal that one person may be both at the same time. One more ethics dimension is unveiled through the character of Col. Nathan Jessup who lies in the courtroom. The movie shows how an oath on the Bible, that was meant to be the guarantee of the truthful testimonies, has lost its meaning. Consequently, if there is no authority of the highest level that would ensure the objectivity of testimonies, the whole process of justice turns into a hoax. Through the characters of Galloway and Weinberg, the viewer sees how the lens of an individual worldview may distort the truth, as well as how personal system of values, bias and prejudged attitudes may lead to false conclusions. Corporal Dawson and Private Downey illustrate how people try to be the men of honor but choose the honor of following orders over the honor of being good men. In addition, through sporadic but eloquent commentaries of protagonist, Daniel Kaffee, the viewer may acquire a holistic picture of the system of justice in which the proof of innocence matters more than innocence per se, and cases are won not by the laws but by the lawyers. Thus, answering the question of who "a few good men" are, one may conclude that they are those who choose the lesser evil for the greater good.