An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth To Power

Release date: July 28, 2017 (USA)
Genre: Documentary
Directors: Bonni Cohen and Jon Shenk
Music composed by: Jeff Beal
Producers: Jeffrey Skoll, Richard Berge, and Diane Weyermann
Featured: Al Gore
Length: 1 hour and 38 minutes
Rating: Not Rated

SYNOPSIS

An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth To Power is the follow-up to former Vice President Al Gore’s influential 2006 film, An Inconvenient Truth, and looks at the rising effects of climate change on the world in a period of 10 years. In clear and concise terms, Gore describes the extreme changes that have occurred in the environment and explains the scientific concepts and complex evidence. He supports his findings with frightening facts: 14 of the Earth’s hottest recorded years have been since 2001; and rising temperatures has increased the Zika virus, putting pregnant women at risk. The scenes of the arctic’s melting polar ice caps, of rain bombs, and of a woman whose shoes get stuck in pavement melted from the heat, provide further gripping evidence of the urgency to cut carbon emissions and other greenhouse gases.

Throughout the film, Gore reminds us that climate change poses a threat to people around the globe and contributes to a declined global economy and to the current refugee crisis. The film includes scenes people experiencing the real-life effects of climate change—from the Philippines to Miami, from Syria to Louisiana, and from India to New York.

The filmmakers shadow Gore at the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris, France, and document his conversations with world leaders and

CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT
Themes in the Film

• Care for Common Home
• Option for the Poor
• Rights and Responsibilities
• Solidarity
• Speaking Truth to Power

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http://bit.ly/2o4Aca4
his work behind the scenes to get India’s Environment Minister, Prakash Javadekar, to ratify the historic Paris Climate Agreement, joining more than 180 nations—a step that brought together developing and developed nations to cut down greenhouse gas emissions in order to combat global warming.

Featured in the film are President Donald Trump’s statement on the environment during his campaign and his statement of his intention to pull the U.S. out of the Paris accords while appointing non-scientists and fossil-fuel industry lobbyists to cabinet positions and dismissing concerns about climate change and advocating for the burning more coal.

The film has a number of uplifting scenes, such as when the mayor of Georgetown, Texas, a Republican, gives Gore a tour of his small city near Austin, boasting that the town gets nearly all of its energy from renewable sources. *An Inconvenient Sequel: Truth To Power* rekindles hope in dark environmental times.

**Reflection Questions**

- Do you think this film was an effective way to raise awareness about climate change? Were there any biases in the film? What groups were left out of the conversation?

- The film focuses on the issue of energy sources as a contributing factor to climate change. What other environmental issues negatively impact our common home? What are alternatives to solve these issues?

- In the film, Gore states that climate events are related to migration. What are the political and economic impacts on nation states, citizenship, and human rights? How do you conceptualize the relationship between poverty and the environment?

- If you could partner another globally-prominent figure (i.e., actor, Nobel prize winner, etc.) with Al Gore to spread the urgent message of saving the earth from rising sea levels and increased carbon emissions, whom would you pick? Why?

- In the film, Al Gore does not mention any of the faith-based organizations working to curb human-caused climate change. How could faith groups have added more depth to the film’s message? What message does Catholic social tradition (CST) offer about care for our common home? Write a new scene for the film that incorporates these CST themes.

- In a live conference call with U.S. faith leaders, Al Gore cited the parable of the servant who was guarding a house but fell asleep when the master was away. He stressed that remaining asleep is not an option and that we each need to make an effort to remain awake to the global emergency of the climate crisis. Would you describe your faith community as “asleep” or “awake, actively” caring for God’s green earth? Explain.
• When speaking to various audiences, Al Gore often turns to Scripture (even Pope Francis’s encyclical, *Laudato Si’*) to convey the message that caring for our common home is an ethical and spiritual issue. He repeatedly says, “It is not about politics.” Do you agree or disagree? Explain.

• How can we as stewards of our common home bring about a change in the minds and value systems of those deep in denial of climate change? How can we transform the “them” and “us” mentality and shift to “one” global community, a transformative community working together for the common good?

• President Donald Trump announced his plan to withdraw the U.S. from the Paris Climate Agreement. A recent Washington Post-ABC poll shows Americans prefer staying in the agreement and commit to building and strengthening relationships around the world to protect the planet from devastating climate risks. With or without the Trump administration’s involvement, how can we ensure support of the global efforts of other nations against the impacts of climate change?

• How are you going to #BeInconvenient after viewing this film?

PRAYER

God of Creation, you call us to be stewards of your green earth. All around us, we see the effects of climate change: sea levels are rising from melting ice; storms are becoming stronger; disruptions of the water cycles are creating “rain bombs;” and fires, floods, tsunamis, and droughts are constantly hounding our world.

Our sisters and brothers, the most vulnerable of the world, face greater risks. Already flows of refugees have lost their homes have no place to call home. Tropical diseases, like the Zika virus, are spreading rapidly and becoming a threat to all humanity. We cannot discount the climate crisis link to poverty and environmental injustice.

Help us to remain hopeful during these dark environmental times and to celebrate the progress that is being made by the global community: The nation of India, which only a year ago was seen as one of the biggest polluters, has closed hundreds of coal-burning plants. In the aftermath of the U.S. Government’s decision to pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement, nations around the world, governors, mayors, business leaders, and faith leaders have redoubled their commitment to protect Mother Earth and her inhabitants.

Help us to connect the dots and to become a transformative community working together for the common good. May we assume our role in caring for and protecting our common home. Each day, may we be stewards of your green earth. Amen.

FAITH IN ACTION

• Sign the #BeInconvenient Pledge: pledge.inconvenientsequel.com. Share why you are pledging to #BeInconvenient. Record and share your video to inspire others to speak truth to power.

“Climate change represents one of the principal challenges facing humanity today, and the response requires the solidarity of all.”

—Pope Francis @Pontifex, April 21, 2016