Kal Bailey

MART 120

January 24, 2021

Reflection on *The Last Lecture*

“Experience is what you get when you didn’t get what you wanted.”

“Wait long enough and people will impress you and surprise you.”

This is the most hope inducing and emotional lecture I’ve seen. As someone who wants to have a career in filmmaking, a field that is notorious for being difficult to enter, I think I took a lot from what Pausch teaches here. The first quote is maybe my favorite thing he says. He’s pointing out the positive in a disappointing situation, which evokes a sense of hope from failure. A lot of people say look on the bright-side or something along those lines, but I think his specificity is what moved me. He doesn’t say something vague like “bright-side.” He says think about the “experience” you gained from this. I think that points me in the direction of one day succeeding and also becoming more human.

I liked that Pausch’s message was equally about achieving one’s own dreams as it was about “enabling*”* the dreams of others. I found that very empathetic and inspiring. I think he said at one point that becoming a teacher is one of the best ways you can do that. Back in November, I helped my friend interview an old teacher of his and he said pretty much the same thing. One day I think I would like to be a teacher of some sort (probably more of a mentor rather than a teacher to a full class of people). I think what Pausch says is true, because as a teacher you are literally helping your students make a path towards their dreams.

I felt a strong sense of honesty coming from this lecture. It’s coming from a dying man, so it feels to me like these are ideas he had to share with the world, because if he didn’t, he wouldn’t feel right leaving it. This helped me take seriously everything that he was saying unlike some other lectures I’ve seen. Like Pausch, I too hope people keep dreaming. I once helped my friend learn how to play the guitar, and that was one of the most gratifying experiences of my life, so I hope to keep helping people with similar goals.