Tuesdays with Morrie

Tuesdays with Morrie is a story about Professor Morrie Schwartz’s last “class”, The Meaning of Life, with author Mitch Albom as the student. Morrie and Mitch discussed the meaning of life as Morrie died of ALS. Tuesdays with Morrie became a thesis of that class-and Mitch’s way of spreading Morrie’s ideas. Before Morrie succumbed to ALS, he and Mitch began working on the book together. The message of the book is about different aspects of life-commitment, culture, and death-but especially living while you could and realizing the important things in life while you still had time.

One of the things Morrie discussed as being an important aspect of life was culture. However, Morrie didn’t necessarily agree with the common culture-he believed in creating your own. He says to Mitch, “People are only mean when they’re threatened, and that’s what our culture does. That’s what our economy does. Even people who have jobs in our economy are threatened, because they worry about losing them. And when you get threatened, you start looking out only for yourself. You start making money a god. It is all part of this culture. This is why I don’t buy into it.” (Albom, 154) Even Mitch admits to putting money before his dreams. The culture was something Morrie hoped to change even a little, or help people look at differently. Focusing on money and the things our culture makes important isn’t a satisfying way to live.

Another part of Albom’s message in Tuesdays with Morrie is to teach readers about commitment, another topic he discussed with Morrie. Mitch felt that his generation, himself included, seemed to dislike commitment, whether to their own dreams or to other people. He had promised Morrie when he finished college that he would keep in touch, and it wasn’t until he saw Morrie being interviewed on ‘Nightline’ about his thoughts on death that he even remembered his promise. He tells Morrie during their discussions that he wished he had kept in touch while Morrie was still healthy. Morrie says that to stay committed to something, you had to believe in the importance of that commitment. Through his writing, Mitch wanted people to see how he regretted some of his lack of commitment in his life, in the hope that others could learn from those mistakes.

Behind all of the messages and meaning in Tuesdays with Morrie, one subject constantly came up: love. This was probably the greatest message in the book. Morrie believed that love could solve many problems, and change lives. He said that people needed to learn to love one another in spite of differences, because inability to love caused so much pain, and was the source of things like war. Morrie’s most repeated quote was “Love each other or die.” Morrie also said that having the people he loved around made the long, slow death he was suffering bearable. Despite being half paralyzed and near death, he tells Mitch “Not everyone is this lucky.” Albom’s message in Tuesdays with Morrie was centered on love and how important it is in life.

Tuesdays with Morrie was meant to inspire others to change, through the things Morrie came realize. Morrie’s ideas all came down to living like every day could be your last. He discussed the culture, and how it made money too important to people. He discussed commitment and what it meant. Most of all, Professor Morrie Schwartz discussed love. Love was behind all of Morrie’s ideas of life and of what made living truly meaningful. Mitch Albom wanted the reader to reflect on their own life while reading his book, and to pass on Morrie’s teachings. Tuesdays with Morrie represents the meaning of life from someone who was down to their last months, and had time to look back on everything-regrets, culture, commitment, and love-and telling others what they wish they had known then.