

Synthesis Essay

If Dr. Phillip Zimbardo were to watch the film 'The Seven-Five' he would state that the film is an example of evil. Dr. Phillip Zimbardo would notice numerous different points in the film, and accordingly, he would refer to the following three scenarios to prove his point: Kenny Eurell's "15-Volt" moment, the bad barrel that permitted NYPD Corruption, and he would suggest that Mike Dowd illustrates the seven steps that result in evil.

Dr. Phillip Zimbardo makes a great statement by expressing his belief that every act of evil starts with "15 Volts" that stems from the Milgram experiment. Kenny Eurell had always believed that he was going to continue to be a good cop, nevertheless he was offered one hundred dollars of drug money by Mike Dowd and he had initially denied it. The one hundred dollars continued to break Kenny down mentally and he continued to think about it and further buy into Mike's way of being a police officer after realizing that he could use the money. Eventually Kenny's '15 Volt' moment got the best of him and he began going down the path of evil alongside Mike Dowd. Therefore, Dr. Phillip Zimbardo's theory on how evil starts with only '15 Volts' is supported in the movie by Kenny experiencing a '15 Volt' moment and then spiralling downhill from there on.

Throughout the documentary they emphasize on how the NYPD's leadership was corrupt and they were the bad barrel that created the NYPD's corruption. The whole morals influenced by the NYPD was that everyone had each others back and they wouldn't "rat out" any other members of the force regardless of how severe the corruption may be. In the documentary they mentioned how roughly twenty five to thirty members of the NYPD's 75th precinct were corrupt along with the captain. This allowed Mike and Kenny to commit corrupt acts along with the rest of the corrupt police officers within the department since nobody was going to "rat" them out as they viewed it as something you just wouldn't do. Dr. Phillip Zimbardo would undeniably emphasize on how the corrupt leadership of the NYPD within the 75th precinct played a major role in the corrupt actions that were going on within the department and how it assisted Mike and Kenny to continue their acts of evil. He would state that if the department would have had better leadership throughout it, it could have helped prevent acts of evil from happening by stopping the problem through proper leadership and administration.

Mike Dowd initially had started out as good cop and he didn't plan on becoming a bad cop. After roughly a year with the NYPD things started to change, Dr. Philip Zimbardo states that the start of evil is mindlessly taking the first small step, which could

be thought of as the '15 Volt' moment. Mike's '15 Volt' moment began when he pulled over an unlicensed and unregistered vehicle and expressed "today is your lucky day" and provided the option to "take (Mike) out for a lobster dinner" suggesting that if they paid Mike he would let them off without any fines. This was Mike's '15 Volt' moment mindlessly taking the first small step towards the path of evil. Dr. Zimbardo's second step of evil is the dehumanization of others. Mike began to dehumanize others when he started robbing people. He had admitted to committing multiple robberies and stated "they are just drug dealers" which began his dehumanization of others. Zimbardo's third step of evil is the de-individualization of self. Mike began to neglect the fact that he was a police officer and that his job held a sense of duty and commitment and he chose to rather commit crime and be a corrupt cop opposed to holding his line of duty expected from him.

Zimbardo's fourth step of evil is the diffusion of personal responsibility, this ties into the third step since Mike had a significant personal responsibility to uphold the law and continue to protect the citizens of the 75th precinct and instead he chose to turn corrupt and follow further down the path of evil and the exact opposite of what he was expected to do. Dr. Zimbardo stated that the fourth step of evil is the blind obedience to authority, a prime example of this in the movie is when Mike continues covering up for the drug gangs because he is being paid and told to do so. He isn't realizing that what he is doing is causing the deaths of many people and allowing his fellow police officers to be put in danger due to this by not conducting his job responsibly and rather being negligent about the dangers involved.

The seventh step of evil is the uncritical conformity to group norms, this is shown in the movie when Mike and his group of people including Kenny began to commit crimes as a group and execute the crimes with fluidity and working together. Everyone in the group thought of it as nothing and didn't believe they were doing anything wrong. The final step of evil is the passive tolerance of evil through inaction or indifference and that particularly in new or unfamiliar situations. This last step is truly one of the most crucial, once they reached this point they didn't think anything of it. The acts of evil turned into a normality for the group of corrupt cops that worked with Mike Dowd and they viewed it as something of the regular. They became passive tolerant to the crimes that they were committing and the corruption that was going on within the NYPD and their group and it led them further down the path of evil. All of these seven acts helped lead Mike and the others involved down the path of evil and ultimately caused Mike his job and prison time. Dr. Zimbardo would emphasize on the seven steps being shown throughout the film and how they caused Mike to turn evil.

In conclusion, Dr. Philip Zimbardo would comment about how acts of evil were conducted by Mike and his gang throughout the documentary highlighting his career as a New York police officer. He would highlight particular moments such as Kenny and Mike's "15 Volt" moment in the documentary and how the NYPD played a major role in being the "bad barrel" in the situation. Along with how Mike managed to fulfill the seven steps included in the path to evil and how it all started with his "15 Volt" moment. Dr. Philip Zimbardo would clearly indicate that Mike was evil along with his gang and that there should have been extra measures put in place to attempt to prevent further escalation of evil within the police department.