

Talk - I am Coming Back – Getting Ready

John 14:2-4, Rev 21:4, Heb. 12:2

Include props of a tray of mud, a tray of sand, a plastic bucket & spade, sun hat, sunglasses, beach towel, etc.

CS Lewis was quoted as saying that we struggle to persevere because “It would seem that our Lord finds our desires not too strong, but too weak. We are half-hearted creatures, fooling about with drink and sex and ambition when infinite joy is offered us, like an ignorant child who wants to go on making mud pies in a slum because he cannot imagine what is meant by the offer of a holiday at the sea.”

Demonstrate this with the props.

Think about COVID. How many of us got tired of washing our hands, wearing masks, following the rules? Think about taking care of our world. How many of us get tired of recycling or reducing our usage when it’s not straightforward and easy? Think about eating healthy. How many of us find it hard when we want comfort or there’s a celebration?

Let’s consider Jesus who made a way for us to be with him forever, a place with no pain, sorrow, mourning or crying. It required that he be rejected, beaten, tortured and killed before many onlookers. How did Jesus persevere? Heb. 12:2 tells us ‘For the joy set before him he endured the cross.’ What joy was that? The joy of being with us together forever. He focused his mind on his love for us, his desire to be with us for all eternity. This is what helped him endure the pain and the suffering.

It's the same for us. We have to love the thing we’re pursuing. So, when it gets tough, do we *only* buckle down and try harder? No, we fix our thoughts on the person or the thing we love. We dwell on it. We linger. We get friends to help cheer us on, give us the pep talk, remind us of how far we’ve come. Think about when you’re infatuated. When our heart is in love, we WILL find a way.

So, are you content with mud pies in the slums, getting stuck on the things of this life or do you want the holiday at the sea, getting ready for life forever with Jesus, enjoying it ‘in part’ here on earth right now and in all its fullness later?

Let’s listen to a song about dwelling on life with Jesus for eternity.

If you need help using these resources, please contact: igniteenquiries@diocant.org

Find our Ignite resources: <https://canterburydiocese.org/ignite/ignite-resources>

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