



## The Bucket List

Recently I went to see the film 'The Bucket List'. As a basic plot outline we have two characters, Edward Cole (Jack Nicholson), a three times divorced multi billionaire businessman and Carter Chambers (Morgan Freeman), a working class family man.

These two characters meet in hospital and are told that they both have terminal cancer with under a year to live. They begin

to write their 'bucket list', which is a list of things to do before you kick the bucket.

Edward is a cynic, who constantly proclaims that the "wheels on the bus keep moving" long after an individual dies. Whilst Carter is a humanist, measuring himself against those people his life has affected.

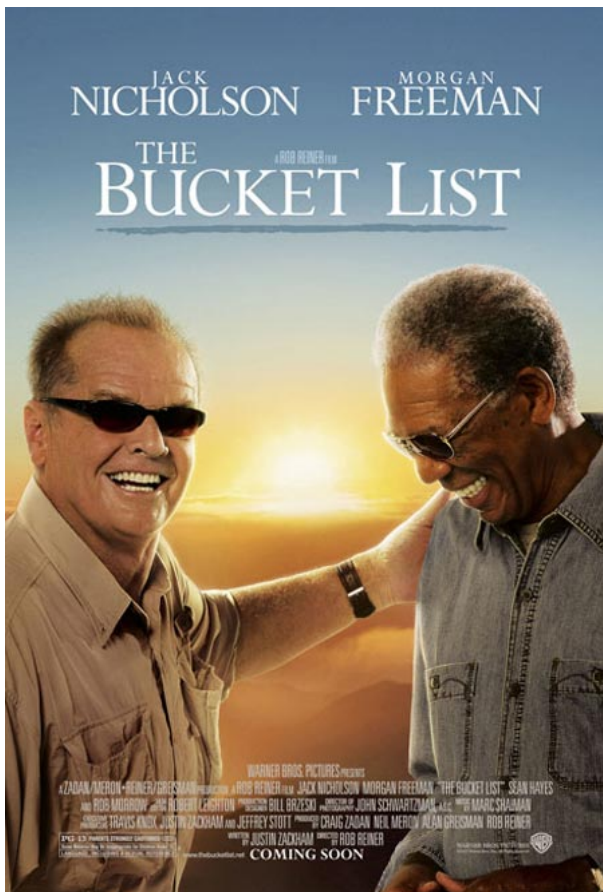
As they both embark on their 'bucket list' journey I was struck by the people left behind, especially Carters wife Virginia. She remained at home whilst her husband, with only weeks to live, travelled the world trying to fulfil his dreams with a relative stranger. Eventually Carter realised that he belonged at home with his wife and family.

There is a scene which reminds me of a piece of scripture - the familiar passage of the returning of the prodigal son (Luke 15).

In this scene there is a celebration meal for the return home of Carter; no questions or debate on the appropriateness of his travels, no whining about his absence, just a celebration of his presence there with them.

I was reminded that God is like this. If we go off trying to do our own thing or turn away from Him, he waits patiently for us to return and when we do He welcomes us as if it is the last time he will ever see us (never true!) and celebrates our presence there with him.

Carter's return to his family prompts the lonely and regretful Edward to be reconciled with his daughter at the end of the film. Both men die and the ashes are placed together at the top of a mountain with a "majestic view". This is nothing compared with the feeling when we are celebrating being present with God.



Written by Neil Roseman

© Northampton Youth Ministry Office, RC Diocese of Northampton

Please do not reproduce this material without permission

[www.nymo.org](http://www.nymo.org) | [www.themicahspace.com](http://www.themicahspace.com)