



Point of View

Dear Marketplace Friend,

Corporate billionaire Edward Cole (*Jack Nicholson*) and working class mechanic Carter Chambers (*Morgan Freeman*) are worlds apart. At a crossroads in their lives, they share a hospital room and discover they have two things in common: a desire to spend the time they have left doing everything they ever wanted to do before they "kick the bucket" and an unrealized need to come to terms with who they are. Together, they embark on the road trip of a lifetime, becoming friends along the way and learning to live life to the fullest, with insight and humor...

That's the teaser for a movie debuting on Christmas Day; it's called ***The Bucket List***, and it's an old-guy's road trip flick. Nicholson and Freeman, on Christmas Day?

Jack Nicholson is a cultural icon. Strange - isn't it? - to use a religious word like "icon" to describe a person who says about himself, *"Men look at stuff like sex very differently from women. It's one of the enduring, unsolvable problems of the gender gap. A male person has more in common with a male dog than he does with a woman..."*

He is 70; it's perfect casting to drop him into a film about clearing your list before you have to clean out your locker. Here's Jack's perspective: *"We all want to go on forever, don't we? We fear the unknown. Everybody goes to that wall, yet nobody knows*



what's on the other side. That's why we fear death. I'm naive emotionally. I can't bear the number of funerals you go to once you get older. I have to find a way to adjust to loss or sentence myself to a life of grieving. So I focus on the immediate, on my children..."

Jack would do well to consider Solomon's insights, offered from his senior vantage point: *"It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart."* (Ecclesiastes 7:2) Solomon was not naive, emotionally or spiritually. He didn't fear *death*... he feared what came *next*. He wasn't worried about missing out *down here*; he was worried about missing out *up there*.

What's on your "bucket list?" If you had an informed professional pronouncing you "terminal" - and giving you an expiration date - what would you want to accomplish before you die?

I spend the majority of my working

days helping Christians - leaders, at that - to come up with their own bucket lists. In that pursuit, we aren't looking for the "Top 10 indulgences to experience before you die;" rather, we're exploring the bigger question: *Do you know what God has put you here to do, and have you done it? Are you ready to see Him and report in? Can you reasonably expect to hear Him say: "Well done, good and faithful servant? You've been faithful..."* (Matthew 25:21)

That's what **The Master's Program** does: it helps Christian leaders come up with their "to-do list," leading up to their departure. But, rather than **TMP** landing in a life that is nearly over, it intercepts a life that is at **Half Time**... with the best playing time left on life's game clock.

Here's the anomaly, though: once you have the important stuff on your radar, the freedom to enhance life with a "bucket list" is entirely appropriate! In fact, we work with couples to distill and pursue their dreams, with God's blessing. Click on that **DreamMaster** button - there it is, on the sidebar, on the right: right there! - and think about joining Cheri and me for a weekend - with your spouse - to explore the exciting possibilities that are in your fantasy bucket, awaiting your attention...

At the expense of your lifetime calling? No way: *dreams put the whipped cream on top of a life well lived, in God's eyes.* There is no more desirable model - an "irresistible lifestyle," as we say it in **TMP** - than the life pursuing *Kingdom Calling... and God-Honoring Dreams*, at the same time, in the same life.

I hope Jack acquires Solomon's insight before he finishes this life: *"Now all has been*

heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil." (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14) God, please help Jack Nicholson find out what's on the other side, so he doesn't have to fear death anymore...

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