



The Bucket List

PG13 – 2007

Overview

Carter Chambers (Morgan Freeman) is a car mechanic and a loving family man with a penchant for trivia. Edward Cole (Jack Nicholson) is a billionaire with an appreciation for the finer things, but with an unsympathetic, boorish attitude. The two end up sharing a hospital room due to a corporate policy that Edward himself instated. Cue the theme to *The Odd Couple*. Actually, in spite of their obvious differences, the two men share something important in common (besides being portrayed by popular Oscar-winning actors): both are terminally ill with the prognosis of mere months to live.

Discussion Guide

Themes:

- Friendship: 1 Peter 3:8
 - Mortality: Ps. 39:4; 144:4; James 4:14, Micah 6:8-8
 - Heaven: Rev. 21:1-3
1. Carter believes that "you measure yourself by the people that measure themselves by you." Do you agree? How does this compare/contrast with what Christians believe about self-worth and a life well lived?
 2. Who initiates the friendship, Edward or Carter? Does it simply develop because they share a room and experience? Or is there an act of kindness that sparks it? What do we learn about reaching out to others from the way these two form a friendship?
 3. Is there a difference between Carter "giving up" on treatment and euthanasia?
 4. Shouldn't he fight to live no matter what the treatment? Or do you believe he fights to live in his own way?
 5. Is Carter unfair to his wife and family with his travels, or is it that he's being fair to himself? Is it unreasonable to avoid being "smothered by pity and grief?" Could he have handled things better? How does he honor his marriage through all this?
 6. Edward tells Carter that he doesn't believe in God or an afterlife: "We live, we die, and the wheels on the bus go round and round." Do you feel Carter responded appropriately? Should he have pressed Edward further at that moment? Why or why not?
 7. How do both characters help each other by the film's end?
 8. What does Carter do for Edward and vice versa? How are they better for meeting each other? Give examples of how they bear one another's burdens.
 9. If you were able to know how much time you have left in this life, would you want to know? Why or why not? What things would top your "bucket list?"