



Connecting Friends Around an Open Bible

Issue # 4

On Your Mark...!

Opening Prayer

Jesus, we know what it is like to get ready for things in life. Now teach us how to become, and stay, ready within our souls. Amen

Last Issue Recap **How did YOU apply the last issue's lesson to your life?**

If you have ever watched the Olympics, you would have noticed highly trained athletes packing the track and field ready to compete in their ultimate events.

Take the 100m sprint for example; some of the fastest people on earth ready to run against one another and the clock, to experience a moment of glory. They are ready for this. The time comes and you hear the announcer pronounce, "On Your Mark..."

- (Now pause and rewind) -

This sprinter has not ended up on the world stage by accident. He has spend years training and preparing for this moment of glory. She has sacrificed much and did what it took to make sure she is ready to run biggest race of her life. How hard they have trained, practiced, prepared and sacrificed is defined by the moment they place themselves on their mark. Everything has come to this. Are they ready for the moment of glory? At this point it's not about winning or losing. What matters is every bit of effort they have put into their preparation to be the best they can be, to be ready. Not only for their respective countries, but more so, for themselves.

Come what may, they are ready to experience the glory.



ChatPoint #1

At one point in your life, have you ever trained for something? (e.g. Sporting event, chess tournament, cook-off, etc.)

- **What and when was it?**
- **How much effort did you put into your preparation?**
- **Why did you practice so hard?**
- **What does this quote tell us?**

"Try to keep your soul always in peace and quiet, always ready for whatever our Lord may wish to work in you. It is certainly a higher virtue of the soul, and a greater grace, to be able to enjoy the Lord in different times and different places than in only one." - Saint Ignatius

The only way an athlete can experience the true glory of the moment is if they have prepared for it. If you have an unfit, untrained, and unprepared person to run the same sprint race as the fit, trained, and ready athletes; that person might feel a small sense of the glory for being there but, my guess is, they would not be prepared to run the race, instead, they'd rather run away to save themselves from the embarrassment.

Your spirituality operates on the same principle. The more you prepare yourself to experience the TRUE Glory of God (Attending church, reading the Bible, praying, etc.), the readier you will be when God pronounces, "On Your Mark...". When that moment comes, and it will; Will you be ready to run the race or will you run away embarrassed?

"The quality of our worship is not based on our activities but on our character. Churches can mistakenly assume that the better the music, the more impressive the building, and the more eloquent the preaching, the more wonderful the experience will be. Genuine worship, however, originates from within our hearts. If our relationship with God is not healthy, all these things are nothing more than religious pageantry."... "if you are not satisfied with the quality of your worship, don't be too quick to blame your environment." (Blackaby)

READ

Isaiah 40:3

Mark 1:1-11

Key Focus

Mark 1:3 "a voice of one calling in the wilderness, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"

ChatPoint #2

1. Is there a particular part of this topic that has stood out for you?
2. What do you think the main point is?
3. What do you think God is trying to tell us?
4. What would you want to say to God after reading this?
5. How can we apply this lesson to our own lives this week?

Personal Reflection

To be completed at home

God wants you to experience the fullness of his Glory but you need to do your part else you might only be a spectator to someone else's experience.

- What is the one thing you can do for better preparation?
- When will you apply it?
- Tell the person you trust what you have decided. Let them help keep you on track.

Prayer Requests

Closing Prayer

Gracious Lord, we are not worthy of glory. Glory should be entirely yours. Help us to lead our lives in the way that will bring you glory. Help us to be prepared for when you call. Amen.

Who will facilitate the next #CCC?

Venue:
Date & Time: