

THE VIEW AHEAD

By Rod

Based on John 17 vv 24-26 where Jesus prays for His disciples that they would be able to see His glory – the glory that lies ahead.

CAST

- JC represents Jesus. In the sketch a sort of mountain-leader who had trained up Peter and Thomas.*
- Peter represents the disciple Peter. Strong character; in general willing to give it a go, but equally very human in his thinking.*
- Thomas represents disciple Thomas. More hesitant – has doubts.*

Peter and Thomas are on stage asleep. They each have rucksacks which they are using as pillows. Dressed for a mountain hike. Enter JC. Also dressed for mountain hike.

JC Wakey, wakey everybody. Are you still sleeping?

Peter *[Waking]* What time is it?

Thomas *[Without moving]* The middle of the night. That's what time it is.

JC Get your things; it is time to set off.

Peter But it is still dark.

Thomas And it is raining.

JC Don't worry about all that. Just follow me. *[Peter and Thomas ... now sit up, alarmed]*

Peter But where are you going?

Thomas Don't leave us, JC.

JC I am going on ahead, all you have to do is to follow me. *[Peter and Thomas scramble to their feet]*

Thomas But we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?

- JC I have told you the way, Thomas,.. and you have your map... and your compass?
- Thomas Yes, but....
- JC You will be fine. Just remember the training I have given you ... and trust me. And I can tell you, the view when you get there will be breathtaking. *[Leaves to head off for the balcony]*
- Thomas Oh, no. he has left us. What shall we do now?
- Peter I suppose we should look at the map.
- Thomas Have you got it, Peter?
- Peter *[Looking in rucksack]* Yes, it is in here somewhere. Ah yes, here we are. *[Draws map out and starts to unfold]*
- Thomas Does it show the route we have to take? *[Looking at map with Peter]*
- Peter Yes, look, it is clearly marked.
- Thomas Oh dear, it is very wiggly. How are we going to keep on track.
- Peter Well, we have got our compasses I suppose. *[Pulling his up from around his neck where it has been hanging.]*
- Thomas Which way do we need to go?
- Peter *[Using compass and map]* Let me see. I reckon it is over that way. *[Points to way JC left.]*
- Thomas Well that is the way that JC went, so you are probably right.
- Peter OK, let's do it. Come on Thomas. *[Goes to set off]*
- Thomas *[Hesitating]* I'm not sure...
- Peter Come on. Chin up. Best foot forward.
- Thomas Best foot forward? How can I do that? I've only got two.
- Peter Stop making excuses you pedant. Better foot forward then!

- Thomas OK, I suppose so. *[They set off]*
- JC *[Now up in balcony]* How are you doing you two?
- Peter *[Shouting, but not looking at JC]* We are using the map.. as you suggested.
- Thomas *[Shouting, but not looking at JC]* And the compass.
- JC Well done. Make sure you keep to the path.
- Peter It is very narrow.
- Thomas And there are lots of rocks and rough places. It is not easy to see where you are going.
- JC You can always use your torches.
- Peter *[To Thomas as both take torches out of pockets or rucksacks]* Oh yeah – “A lamp to our feet and a light to our path.”
- Thomas Oh that’s much better. *[Shouting to JC]* Thanks JC.
- JC I can tell you – the view from up here is fantastic. You can see for miles and miles.
- Peter We’ll have to take your word for it. The view from here is about six inches.
- Thomas *[To Peter]* Oh dear, I don’t like the look of that hill. Are you sure we are on the right path, Peter?
- Peter *[Stopping to check map]* Yup – according to the map we are spot on.
- Thomas But it is so steep. We’ll never make it to the top.
- JC Keep going you two. It will all be worth it in the end.
- Thomas *[To Peter]* It had better be. This is just like an army boot-camp.
- Peter *[Excited]* I think I can see the top!
- Thomas You’re having me on?

Peter No, I really can see the top.

Thomas How do you know?

Peter Because I can see JC waiting for us.

JC *[Welcoming Peter and Thomas as they emerge on to balcony]* Well done you two. You made it!

Peter Thanks JC.

Thomas Yes, thanks. *[Breathless]* Phew, that was quite a climb.

JC And now, as your reward, you have the chance to admire the view.
[Points out from balcony]

Peter *[Very enthusiastic.]* Wow, that is awesome.

Thomas I take my hat off to you, JC. I must confess, I had my doubts – but you were spot on. *[Arms outstretched looking at view.]* This is truly the most glorious thing imaginable. Thank you for letting us share it

THE END