**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 breath-taking. *[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*