

A McCool Morning Watch
(Adapted from Camp Lutherlyn 1993)

MONDAY

QUENTIN McCOOL

Quentin McCool always sat in his pool
afloat on an old innertube.
He patiently waited, as time slipped away,
for excitement to pump up his day.
He thought to himself that his life was a bore
and he wished he had something more.

One day he said as he waited and read,
"Waiting isn't much fun anymore.
It has been a long time since anything cool
has happened to me in my pool.
I need an adventure - excitement, pizzaz!
Is anyone listening to me?"

Do you ever feel like your life is one long wait?

Do you ever wish that an adventure would happen to you?

READ: Jonah 1:1-7

What was Jonah's response to God's invitation to adventure?
What is your response when you are invited to adventure?

PRAYER:

O God, you call us to adventure in many ways. Help us to be willing to accept your invitation. Give us the strength and the courage to accept your challenges and make the most of them. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

TUESDAY

From the depths in a flash it came with a splash
and Quentin was carried away.

It was dark; it was wet and he still cannot say
what manner of creature attacked him that day.

Like Jonah he rode in that creature all night
he shivered with cold and with fright.

"Adventure!" he cried as the thing opened wide
and spit him out onto the sand.

He stood in the sun on a strange lonely shore...

He was not in his pool anymore.

It was clear at a glance that this land of romance
was an isle in a very large sea.

A dark rocky mountain rose tall through the trees
that swayed in the grip of an uneasy breeze.

The sounds from the forest came out of his dreams;
creatures howled, they hooted, and screamed.

There were tracks on the ground and they ran all around;
they were different and strange; they were big!

It was clear in his fright, he'd need shelter that night.

He'd no wish to sleep under the stars.

He found as he searched for a sheltering place
a wee cave in a broken rock face.

The last rays of the evening sun filtered in
as he peeked at the small space within.

Quentin's life seemed to be one long wait for something
exciting to happen - which it eventually did.

What makes life exciting?

READ: Matthew 28:19-20

Is there a Christian adventure?

PRAYER:

Creator God, help us to find excitement in our lives. And help
us to be excited about things that are good for us, for others,

and for our world. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

WEDNESDAY

That someone had been here before him was clear
There were things in the cave; toward the rear:
A bag with a book, a jack knife, an old map,
matches, some beans, and a cup.
He heated some beans in the cup on a fire
and studied the torn yellow map.

It showed the green isle with its high rocky peak.
An "X" marked a place near the top.
"Treasure," thought Quentin, perusing the map,
"Tomorrow I'll find that "X" spot."
He pitched the old tent in the dark, growling night
and tried hard to sleep, but could not.

He rose, took the bag, and he climbed all day long;
never stopping 'til he reached the top.
He found a great door in a wall made of stone
it cracked open before he could knock.
A voice from inside whispered, "Premé Diem."
and Quentin hid under a rock.

The door opened wide and the creature inside
said, "Quentin McCool come on in."
Quentin was scared. He just wasn't prepared
for a stranger to know him by name.
But the sound of the voice left Quentin no choice
and he followed the creature within.

Quentin found some handy items - including a map - that may be helping him succeed in his adventure.

What handy items have you found that help you in adventures?

READ: John 14: 15-26

Trust the Holy Spirit to be your map. What is your idea of where this guide wants to lead you?

PRAYER:

Guide us, O God and help us to locate and learn to use what

you have given us as equipment for the adventure of Life.
Amen

THURSDAY

"I listened to you when you called from your pool
and that is why I brought you here.
Now reach in your bag and take out the big book
for the book is your journal of days.
Look over the pages and see what you see
and then read an example to me.

He opened the book and he saw written there
each day of his life in detail.
He flipped through pages from birth to the present
He was startled, surprised, and alarmed.
His once busy life had grown boring and dull
and the words on each page were the same.

"Quentin McCool always sits in his pool
afloat on an old innertube.
He patiently waits as the time slips away,
for excitement to pump up his day.
He thinks to himself that his life is a bore
and wishes for something to do."

"You see it is just as I thought," said McCool,
"life has become dull in my pool.
I wait, and I wait, and then wait some more
what's wrong with this world such a bore?"
"The problem is not with the world, my boy...
I'm afraid that the problem's with you."

Someone pulled Quentin into this adventure on purpose. We know something about Quentin's adventure. What is the goal or adventure of the one-who-lives-in-the-mountain? Has your life ever been dramatically changed by someone you didn't know and may have met by accident?

READ: Matthew 4:18-22

How can following this rabbi change your life?

PRAYER:

Lord, help us to pay attention to the lives of others around us

and how we affect each other for good. Amen

FRIDAY

"Life is an adventure," the wise creature said,
"It is meant to be lived on the edge.
If you sit and you wait for an exciting day,
you'll wait your whole lifetime away!
Squeeze your days, Quentin, make every one count
life's an adventure in every amount.

Get off of your tube and get out of your pool
and go get a life, Quent McCool!
Premé Diem - Squeeze the Day," he repeated.
now go back home this adventure's completed."
With a flash and a splash the flying McCool
from dizzying heights landed back in his pool.

The adventure behind, Quent decided real fast
that his old days of waiting were past.
He got off his tube and out of his pool
and he stretched out his arms big and wide
"I'm going to start making things happen," he said,
"instead of just going along for the ride."

Quentin can never go back and write on the pages of life that he wasted by waiting around for something to happen, but he can decide to squeeze his days from now on.

Lots of voices in our culture tell us that the goal of a good life is to be able to float in our pool with lots of leisure time. What do you think about that?

READ: Luke 5:15-16

What do you think is the purpose of quiet times in life?

PRAYER:

God of rest and of action, you have given us life and all that makes it good. Help us to use our quiet times for rest as a part of the continuing ups and downs of the adventure of life. In Jesus' name. Amen