

A number of years ago we visited Ellis Island.

At one time all immigrants had to pass through.

We visited the quarantine station where every immigrant had to be carefully examined.

2% of immigrants rejected for health or mental reasons

It was known of the Isle of happiness and the Isle of tears.

Sandy's grandfather missed sailing on the Titanic in 1912 by 4 hours and had to take a later ship.

Much like he, we've embarked on a great journey

It seems not to be well planned

We're not sure of the starting place

Job 14:1 "Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble.

We don't know the time of the end-

Heb 9:27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,

What's the goal here?

Psa 90:10 As for the days of our life, they contain
seventy years, Or if due to strength, eighty years,
Yet their pride is but labor and sorrow; For soon it
is gone and we fly away.

1Ti 4:8 for bodily discipline is only of little profit,
but godliness is profitable for all things, since it
holds promise for the present life and also for the
life to come.

(ERV) Ecc 12:1 Remember your Creator while you are young, before the bad times come – before the years come when you say, "I have wasted my life."

(2) Remember your Creator while you are young, before the time comes when the sun and the moon and the stars become dark to you--before problems come again and again like one storm after another.

(3) At that time your arms will lose their strength.

Your legs will become weak and bent. Your teeth will fall out, and you will not be able to chew your food. Your eyes will not see clearly.

Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

We've had some training but that's over for most of us and now we are setting our own course.

Some of us didn't have good training and we are still setting our own course.

Heb 12:9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? (10) For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. (11) For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Some of us didn't pay attention to what our fathers
did tell us.

Pro 30:17 The eye that mocks a father and scorns
to obey a mother will be picked out by the ravens
of the valley and eaten by the vultures.

Will your anchor hold in the storms of life, When
the clouds unfold their wings of strife? When the
strong tides lift, and the cables strain, Will your
anchor drift or firm remain?

Storms of life surround us

God allows us to be tested, just as He did Paul

Php 2:25-28 I have thought it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus my brother and fellow worker and fellow soldier, and your messenger and minister to my need, (26) for he has been longing for you all and has been distressed because you heard that he was ill. (27) Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow. (28) I am the more eager to send him, therefore, that you may rejoice at seeing him again, and that I may be less anxious.

Ecc 12.4 You will become hard of hearing. You will not hear the noise in the streets. Even the stone grinding your grain will seem quiet to you. You will not be able to hear the women singing. But even the sound of a bird singing will wake you early in the morning because you will not be able to sleep. (5) You will be afraid of high places. You will be afraid of tripping over every small thing in your path. Your hair will become white like the flowers on an almond tree. You will drag yourself along like a grasshopper when you walk. You will lose your desire, and then you will go to your eternal home. The mourners will gather in the streets as they carry your body to the grave.

Storms of life surround us
Paul suffered poverty

Php 4:11-12 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. (12) I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need.

Ecc 12.6 Remember your Creator while you are young, before the silver rope snaps and the golden bowl is crushed like a jar broken at the well, like a stone cover on a well that breaks and falls in. (7)
Your body came from the earth. And when you die, it will return to the earth. But your spirit came from God, and when you die, it will return to him.

Storms of life surround us temptations

1Co 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Storms of life surround us
death of loved ones

1Co 15:53-55 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. (54) When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." (55) "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"

Ecc 12.11 Words from the wise are like sharp goads. When these sayings are written down and saved, they can be used to guide people, just as a shepherd uses a sharp stick to make his sheep go the right way. (12) So, son, study these sayings, but be careful about other teachings. People are always writing books, and too much study will make you very tired.

Due to the conditions in our lives, we may need to
change course.

Heb 6:19 This hope we have as an anchor of
the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast and one
which enters within the veil,

Tit 1:2 in the hope of eternal life, which God, who
cannot lie, promised long ages ago,

Ecc 12.13 Now, what should we learn from everything that is written in this book? The most important thing a person can do is to respect God and obey his commands, because he knows about everything people do – even the secret things. He knows about all the good and all the bad, and he will judge people for everything they do.

What about your own Isle of happiness or tears,
will we be accepted?

Rev 2:10 'Do not fear what you are about to suffer. Behold, the devil is about to cast some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.

What about your own Isle of happiness or tears,
will we be accepted?

Mat 25:32-34 "And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; (33) and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. (34)

"Then the King will say to those on His right,
'Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

will we be rejected?

Mat 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels;

Mat 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. (14) "For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

Perhaps it's not the 2% rejected on Ellis Island for being unsuitable, but most

Where do you stand?

Rev 7:17 for the Lamb in the center of the throne shall be their shepherd, and shall guide them to springs of the water of life; and God shall wipe every tear from their eyes."

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'