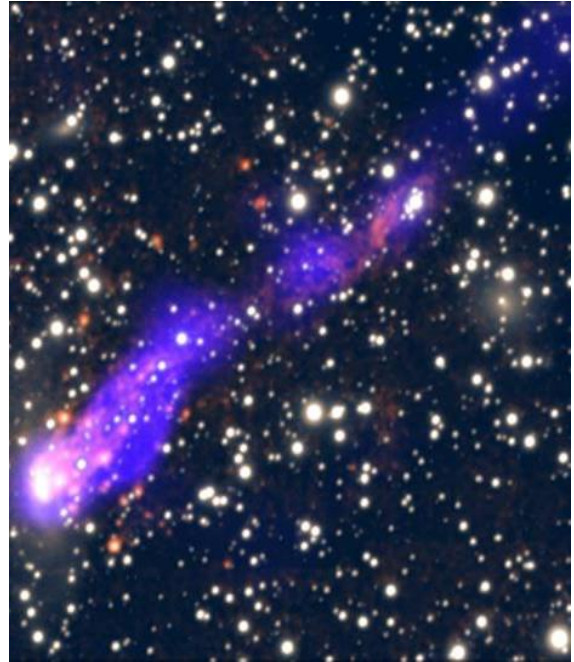


39. *A radiant teacher with starlight qualities*

In his lovely book, *The Great Divorce*, C S Lewis writes about a woman entering heaven and a huge throng of well wishers surrounding her. She asks who these people are who know her so well. They are the young kids, now grown older, that she taught when a faithful Sunday school teacher decades past. They are with their families and the people that they helped convert. Her efforts have been multiplied countless times.



A story is told of an old, tired missionary returning to the coast of the USA after decades of service in the mission field. He looks over the side of the ship and doesn't see anyone on the dockside to meet him. Some wealthy entrepreneur steps ashore to acclaim and the media, and even a small brass band. The missionary carries his own cheap portage ashore and sits down alone on his moderate bed in a cheap hotel and feels sad and unloved. Why did I pour out my life far from my family and friends, he broods, to return home to retire an alien in my native land? In his heart he hears God say: YOU HAVE NOT ARRIVED HOME YET, THIS IS NOT YOUR HOMECOMING!

His spectacular homecoming is through the pearly gates into glory, and acclaim beyond his wildest reckoning.

You faithfully teach, perhaps only one student of a missionary in a remote place to enable their ministry to continue, or you teach a class in a school of little renown, or maybe you lead in an impressive ministry. Wherever God has put you, your service is of immense value. You are precious too! Jesus paid a terrible price for you. But you are worth it. You work to please God - not for riches in heaven, pie in the sky. However don't discount what awaits you when you breathe your last breath. A huge celebration and party is set for your arrival, and the totality of your life's effort will unfold before you. You will be amazed at what you have built up day by day and how the Spirit has multiplied your investment in the Kingdom. It will take you ages to get around all the people you have influenced for the kingdom directly, let alone indirectly through gifts of money, prayer and via those you have inspired to do the work of the Master.

Today is one more day to add to the tally, to bless and extend the kingdom, and to add eternal significance to your work.

Read Daniel 12:3 as your promise for today, and its echo in Matthew 13:43

Daniel 12:3

And teachers and those who are wise will shine like the brightness of the firmament, and those who turn many to righteousness shall give forth light like the stars forever and ever.

Matthew 25:21

"His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

John 15:8

*This is to my Father's **glory**, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.*

Romans 2:7

*To those who by persistence in doing good seek **glory**, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.*

2Corinthians 4:17

*For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal **glory** that far outweighs them all.*