

54. Sandcastle

I scrape up my personal ambition; my pet loves and hates my prejudices and plans to insulate myself from exposure to poverty, sickness, violence. Then I set up my plans for my classes so that there is minimal pain and maximum predictability, so I can have a smooth run through the calendar year. Spiritual stuff is in the mix too, a bit like magic, I throw it in to ensure I am protected, and have appeased the requirements of heaven. Lust for comfort comes in my door as a guest and stays as a permanent despot, holding at a distance the Spirit who wants entry in His radical and unpredictable way.

When I sit on top of this sandcastle life seems pretty good, but I know it's not optimal. For real blessing comes from real life, not my insulated one. Real life is messy. Cleaning up the vomit of one of my students, sitting with a colleague through their divorce struggle, wrestling down the days with a rebellious student, intense prayer for a pupil who has just said their parent, has lost their job and prospects are bad. Waiting on God for breakthroughs for students who don't seem to master the basal skills is so demanding.

The elements crash upon my sandcastle and the master plan for a balanced, reasonable and comfortable life crumble. The tide wells up and demolishes so much of my carefully constructed sandcastle. Students rush the bailey and demand so much of me now I am exposed. How do I find the resources to feed the massive needs? (Matthew 14:13-20). I have built my life on a foundation of sand and tried to shape the kingdom of God into it, the two are not alloys but more like oil and water. In my desperation I have no choice but to rebuild my life on the rock.



This is like a person who dug down to bedrock to lay the foundation of their home. When a flood came, the floodwaters pushed against that house. But the house couldn't be washed away because it had a good foundation.

Luke 6:46-49

http://nfb.ca/film/sand_castle/

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J39FBXobj-0>

<http://video.google.com.au/videoplay?docid=6589717199257441988&ei=mYwoS8uZIYH8qAOQ8uSXAaw&q=sandcastle&hl=en#>

Magritte's famous surrealistic painting

http://momofmonkeys.files.wordpress.com/2008/11/rene_magritte_castle_in_the_pyrenees.jpg

The Wise Person Built the House upon the Rock song

<http://vimeo.com/1061900>