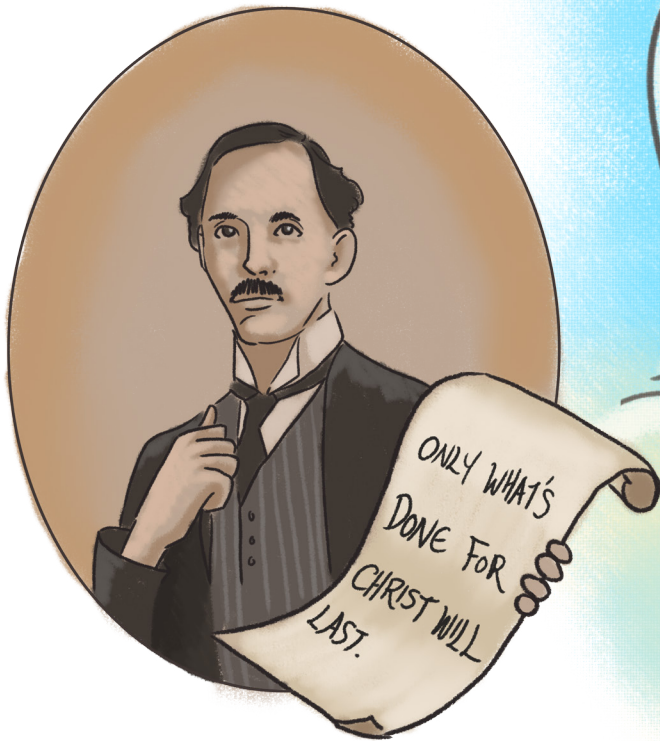


One of the top surprises we may encounter when we get to heaven is to see what really matters to Jesus and what was not so important.

The Things that Really Count!



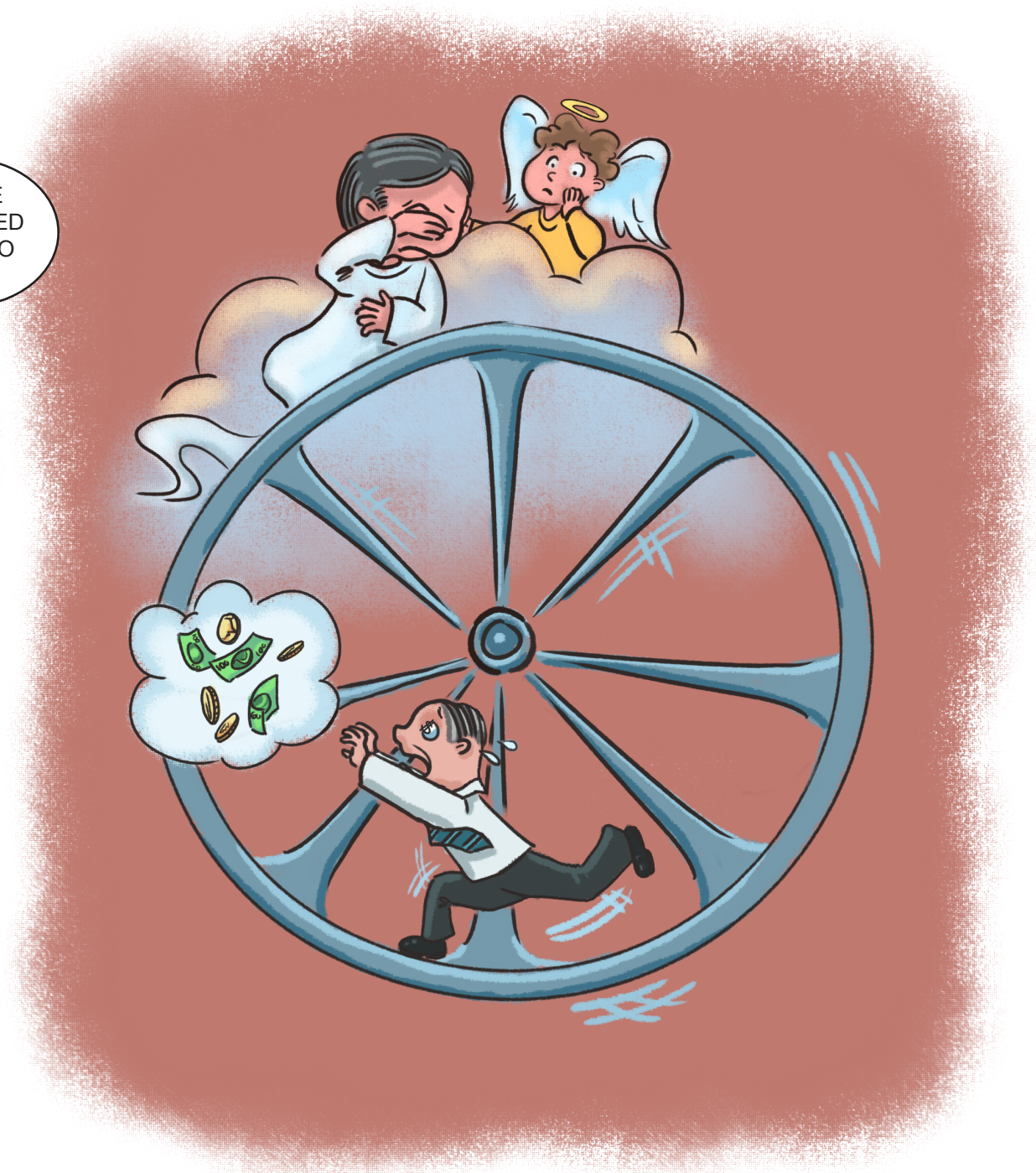
C. T. Studd, a man who devoted his life to missionary work, wrote a poem with this memorable line, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past; only what's done for Jesus will last."



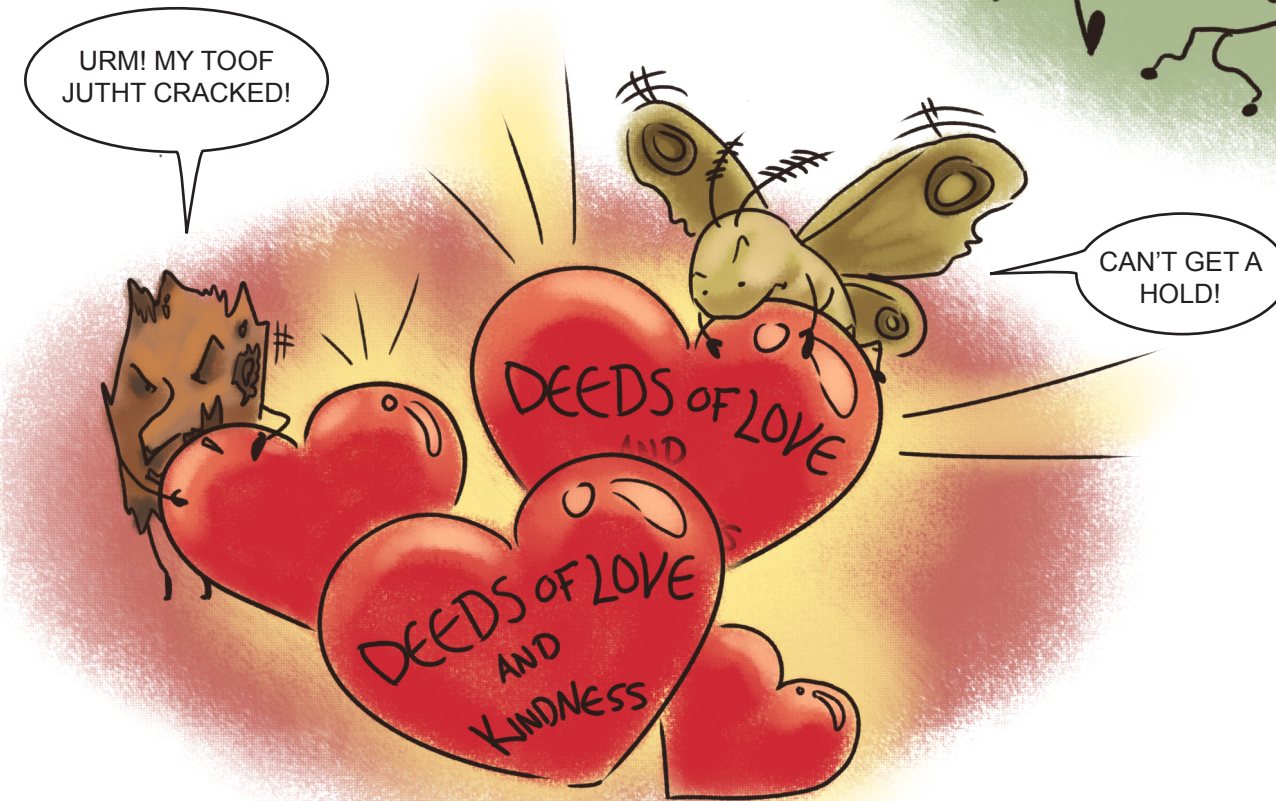
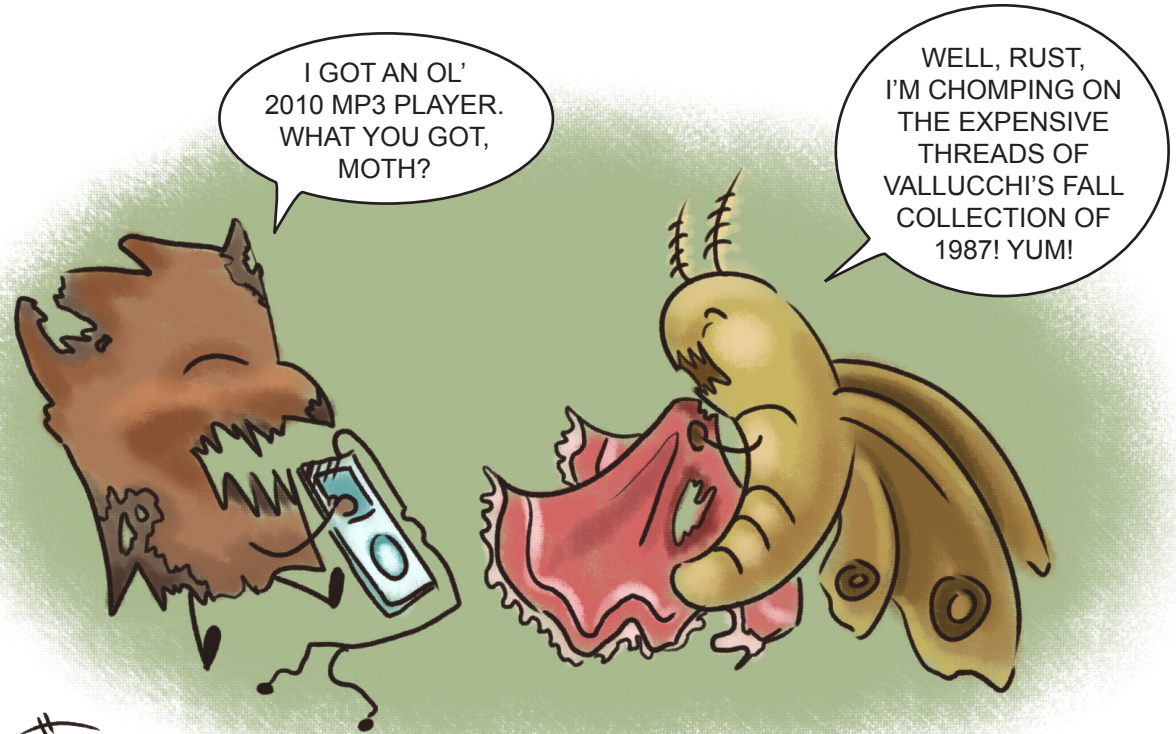
This is why many who come close to death or who experience a major catastrophe try to warn loved ones about what they feel really matters. They want to tell their loved ones about the things that really count in life, the things that are going to make a difference, the things they feel are going to live on and last forever.



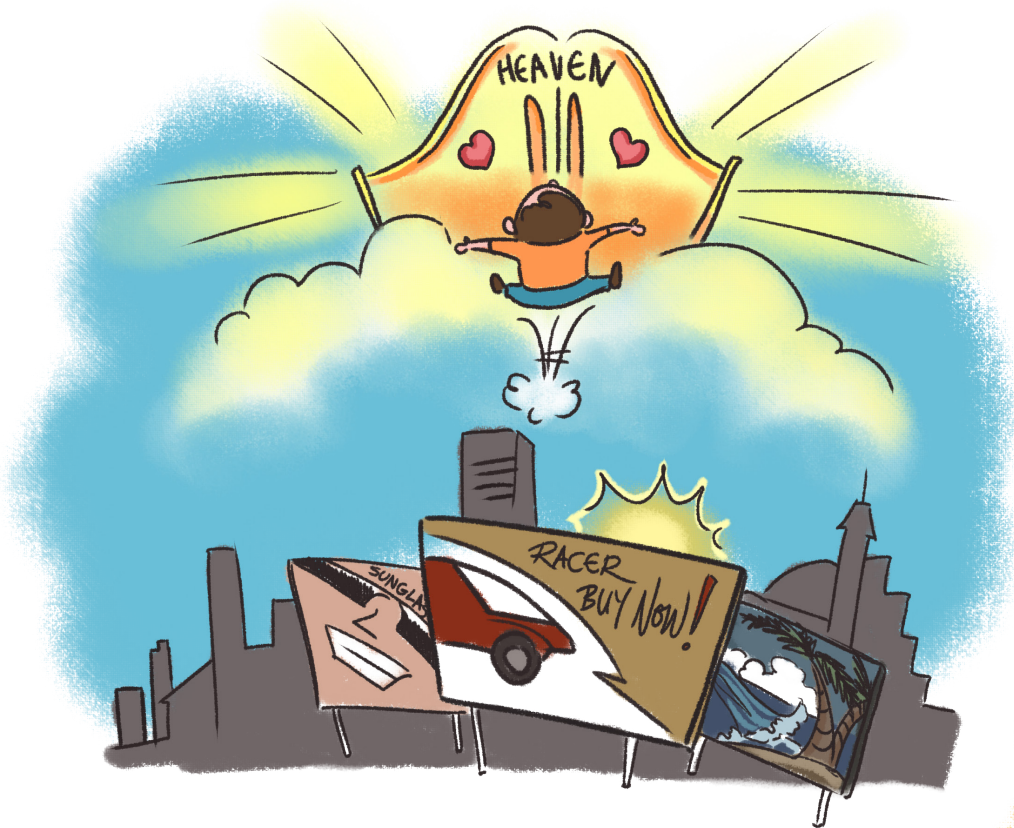
Many people today are busy spending their time in fruitless endeavors, investing their time, money, and energy in work, activities, and pastimes that won't last, and that aren't going to go anywhere in the next world. One of these days, those people are going to realize they've worked their whole lives for something that's not going to last, for something that's going to pass away in a moment of time. In the blink of an eye, poof—it'll all be gone.



This is why Jesus says not to work for things that will perish, but to work for what's going to last. "Do not work for food that perishes but for food that lasts for eternal life" (John 6:27 NIV). And "Don't store up treasures here on earth, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. Store your treasures in heaven, where moths and rust cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal" (Matthew 6:19–20 NLT).

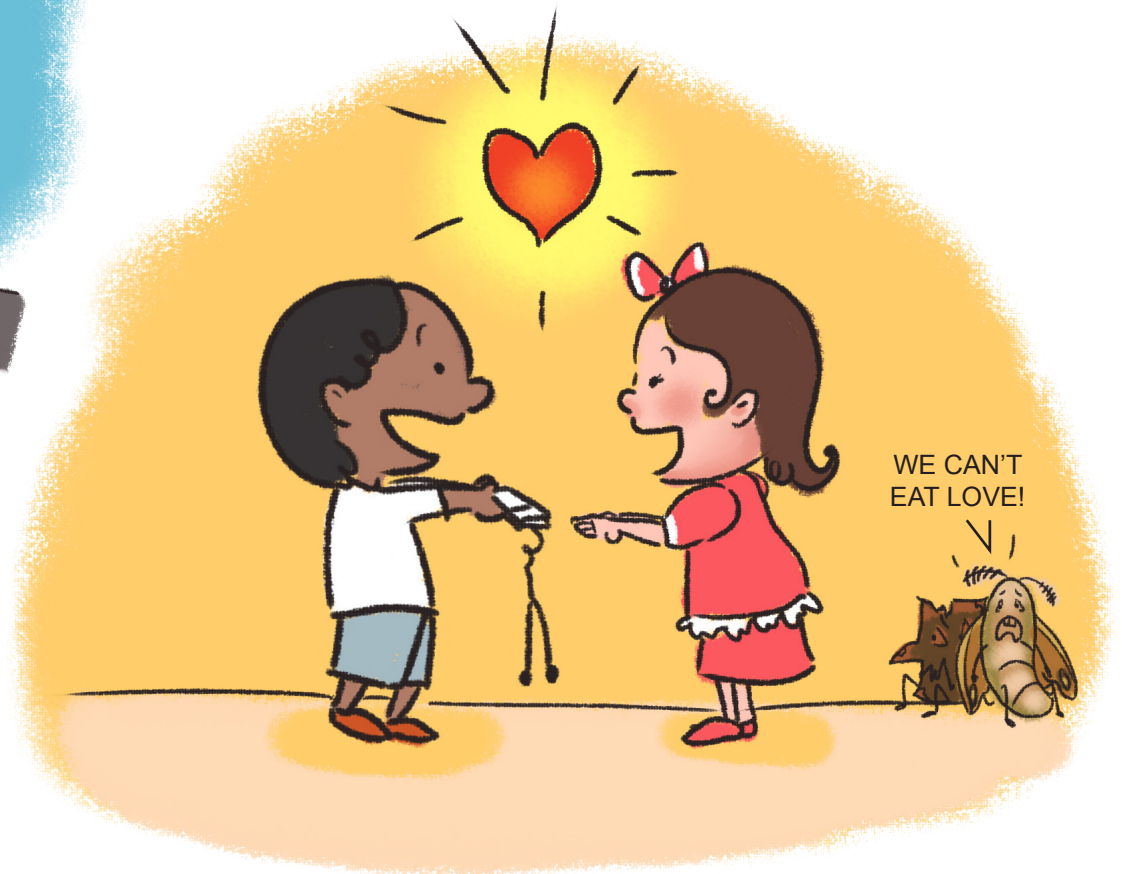


Jesus is telling us to spend our time and energy on things that are going to carry over into the next world, to work for things that will not die out—things that will count in the real world. He tells you to work toward the future, to invest in the future, to work for things with eternal value—things that are based on love.



If you want to do something that's going to last forever, ask Jesus to help you act with love, kindness, and compassion toward those you interact with in your day. Love is what really matters—things done with love will last forever.

The world preaches living for the things of the world, and those are the things of the moment, which aren't going to last. When we go to heaven, we'll probably wonder how we ever could have given so much time and importance to some of the things we thought were so important but weren't.



S&S link: Christian Life and Faith: Spiritual Insight and Awareness: Life and Death-2a

Contributed by Christi S. Lynch, adapted from the writings of Maria Fontaine. Illustrations by Yoko Matsuoka. Design by Christia Copeland.

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