

## Blessings (v.10-19)

- Food colouring into clean water
  - adding more water doesn't clean the water!
- Something like that is being described here:
  - clean (holy) stuff doesn't make other stuff clean (holy)
  - but dirty (unclean) stuff does defile/dirty other stuff
- But, God says, things are going to be different now:
  - though they had turned to God maybe 3 months before...
  - still not a huge lot had happened on the site...
  - commentators reckon it took them a few years to actually complete the task
  - but that decisive change - starting to build - now comes to a definite point, the "day when the foundation of the Lord's Temple was laid" (v.18)
  - and from now on the curses will be undone; God will act
  - they can't make themselves clean - they can only co-operate in God's work
  - he makes them clean, he deals with the defilement, and he shows that in the blessings that start to come on them
- *Whitburn tithing story...*
- **Choose to obey...**
  - and see if God does not bless...
  - scene from "Chariots of Fire", just before Eric Liddell is due to run in the 400m final at the Paris...
  - *"Therefore the LORD, the God of Israel, declares: 'I promised that your house and your father's house would minister before me forever.' But now the LORD declares: 'Far be it from me! Those who honour me I will honour, but those who despise me will be disdained.*

## Cygnets? Signets? (v.20-23)

- How many rings are there in church?
- Why do people wear them?
  - to show love, to remember....
  - to look good

### Signet Ring

- A ring with letters or a design carved onto it, used as a royal seal to prove validity of documents
  - to talk of a person in such a way is a sign of approval!
  - he had a hugely significant place to play in God's plans and purposes
  - some degree of foreshadowing of Messiah
  - but also, in Christ, we can also be truly described as God's signet rings