

DARK Christmas

The gritty reality of redemption's arrival

Reputation is important to us all

Having a "Good Name"

"How may I live without my name? I have given you my soul; leave me my name!" - John Proctor, *The Crucible*



Our Name is our refuge of meaning and character

Ecclesiastes 7:1a "A good name is better than fine perfume..."



"But I don't care about your dumb approval!"

Therefore...

There is great pain in losing your name and great temptation in keeping it.

Matthew 26:75 Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

Great names have always been made by those with the courage to lose them.

Jesus gets how you feel about your name
(do you get how he feels about his?)

Jesus lost his good name

1. Reputations are notoriously inaccurate.
So don't put your hope in yours

2. Sometimes reputations are found by losing them in obedience

3. Jesus is the name better than our name

Jesus said the same would happen to us

Jesus can be trusted to vindicate his name and ours

vin-di-cate: The removal of all disgrace, blame or suspicion. To justify.

DARK

Christmas

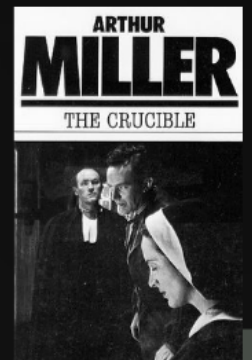
December 7 - Losing Your Name

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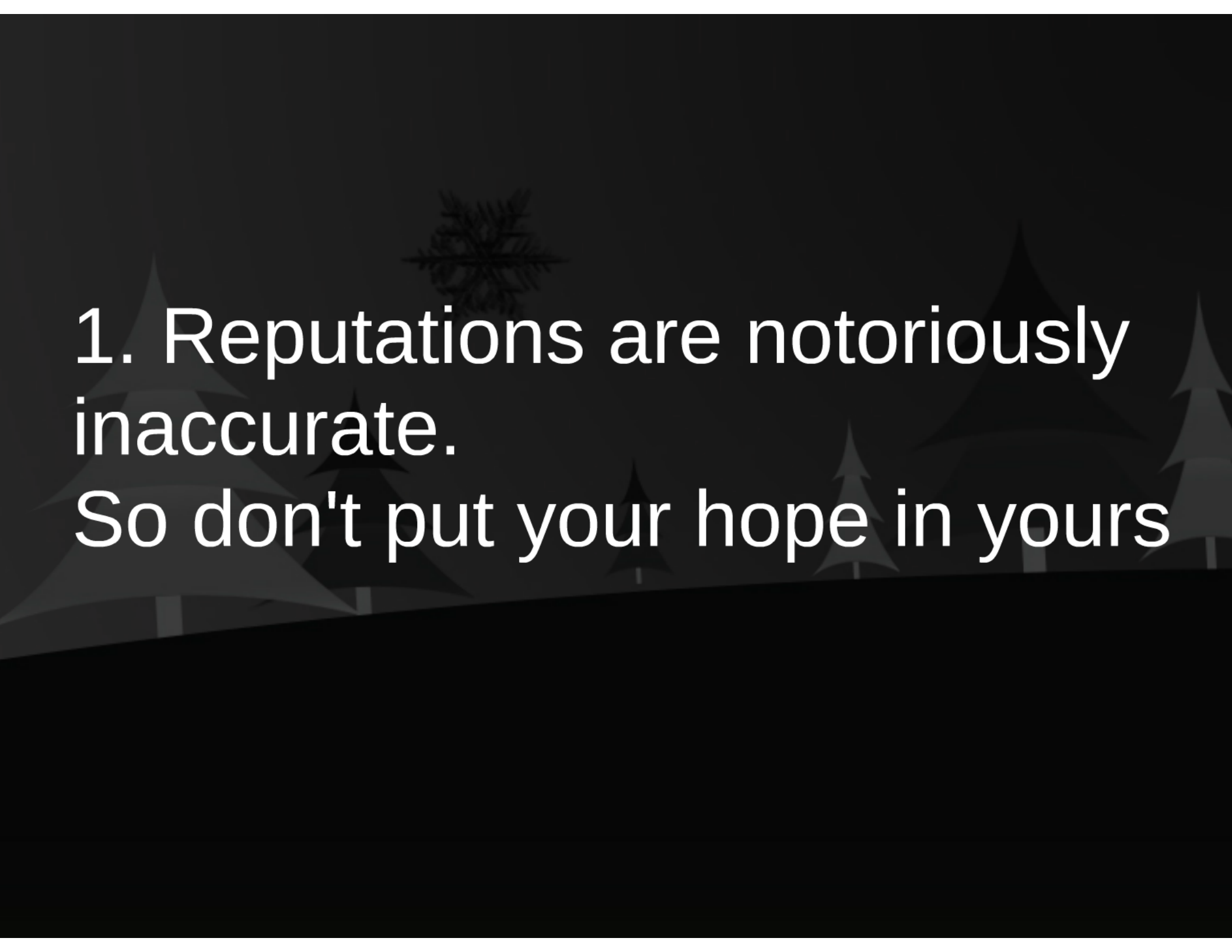
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Genesis 21:1-4

They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used bricks instead of stone, and he be for record. 2 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 22:1-3

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make you into a great people, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Genesis 11:3-4

They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves and not be scattered over the face of the whole earth."

Genesis 12:2-3

"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

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