

The Flying Scotsman



One of the most famous Olympic runners was Eric Lidell.

He ran for Scotland in the 1924 Olympics. But Eric was more than a gifted runner – he was a Child of God, and he loved God with all his heart. He knew it was God who made him so fast. And he wanted to please God with his special talent.

Eric faced a tough decision before his big race. His specialty event – the 100 metre sprint – would have its qualifying heat on a Sunday. Being a Christian, Sunday was a sacred day to Eric, as it was a day he would attend church and devote to God. He didn't feel it would be right to race that day. Even though everyone pressured him hard, he refused to run.



Can you imagine that? Eric allowed himself to be disqualified so that he could honour God. And he decided instead to run in the 400 metre race later that week – an event no one thought he could win.

The day of the 400 metre event came, and Eric and the others were at the starting line.

As always, he shook hands with the other competitors.

Eric surprised everyone that day. Not only did he win the 400 metre race, but he set both a world and an Olympic record.

Eric had honoured God, and God had smiled on him.



Eric was now a famous athlete. He could have been rich. But he wasn't interested in that. Instead, he went to China as a missionary and he preached about the Lord Jesus to many people. Eric died in China

while he was still young – only 43 years old – when he became ill with a brain tumour.

Had Eric used his talent and his life well? You bet he did. And when he died, he went straight to be with Jesus, whom he had loved so much. There must have been a shining gold medal waiting for Eric Lidell in heaven that day – better even than the one he had won in the Olympics.



Do you have a special ability? God gave that to you. You can use it to honour the Lord, like Eric did. You might not run in the Olympics, but you can use your talent right where you are!

"...Those who honour Me I will honour..." – 1 Samuel 2: 30