



Men's Golf Fellowship Speaker Discussion Questions

Dale Jones

Topic: Purpose; Eternal Perspective; Identity, Heart Idolatry

About the Talk

Dale Jones, being the CEO of an executive search firm, focused his talk around finding the 'Core' of a person. What is a person really like? What is their character like when tested with difficulties? What are they basing their meaning and purpose on? These are questions that bear reflection and self-examination as we consider our Faith.

Discussion Questions

- Dale spoke of having a small accountability group after college that helped him integrate his faith and work and where he learned how to be transparent and vulnerable. Have you ever had a group or a friend like that? What tangible advantage would you see to having something like that in your life? Do you find it hard to be transparent and vulnerable? If so, why? (e.g. Fear of what people might think of me, fear that people might take advantage of that, losing people's respect, etc.) Let's work as a group and list several fears and several potential advantages to living a more open and transparent life. **Related Scripture: 2 Cor. 12:9 - The counterintuitive truth of strength in weakness**
- Dale said several times, "Fame is a vapor, wealth takes wings and flies away, popularity comes by accident, but character never dies." Is this true? If yes, assess your own life. What have you been pursuing to give your life meaning, purpose and value? Honestly, has it delivered all you thought it would? In what ways are you "walking the dog three times a day?" (e.g. playing golf, tennis, going out to eat, international travel, etc.) **Related Scripture: Gal. 4:4-7 - Where our worth and value are truly found**
- Dale spoke of a house fire that took everything and he commented that the effect it had on his life was that he learned that he must "wear his clothes loosely." What do you think he meant by that? Do you wear your "clothes" loosely or do you have a white knuckle grip on the things of this world? What one or two things that, if you lost them, would make you question whether to go on living? (e.g. loss of a loved one, loss of your portfolio, homes, health, etc.) **Related Scripture: Eccl. 3:20 - The eternal perspective we need in life**
- Dale, quoting CS Lewis, said, "God whispers to us in our pleasure; He speaks to us in our conscience; but he shouts to us in or pain." Go around the circle and briefly describe a painful time in your life. (It's OK to pass if you like). What got you through that period? What did you hold onto for hope of a future? What was your "Core" that helped you through it? How did your faith in God help you through? If faith in God was not part of that, what advantage could you see in having God in your life at that time? **Related Scripture: Jer. 29:11 - The good plans and hope God offers**

Closing Prayer God, I thank you for all that you have given me and I confess that I have given some of those things priority over my relationship with you. Please help me loosen my grip on the things of this world and begin to reorient me in your direction. Although this is difficult to pray, please search my heart, Lord, and put me to the test so that my anxieties, worries and idols will be revealed. **(Ps 139:23-24 - adapted)**

For more information please visit our website at: <http://www.mensgolf fellowship.com>