



Men's Golf Fellowship Speaker Discussion Questions

Dale Jones

Leaders Guide

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
 - Where we're going: Dependence. The point you are driving the group towards is that accountability demands you show weakness and allows others to speak into your life. In other words: dependence outside of oneself. Ultimately we want to disciple men toward dependence on Christ.
 - Going Deeper: In 1 Sam. 17, what ways did David show weakness (i.e. was no great warrior, wore no armor, took no powerful weapons, etc.) and dependence on God (v. 36)? How does David's approach mirror that of Christ's approach to the cross?
- 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**
 - Where we're going: Idolatry. Meaning, purpose and value are all ways of speaking about Idolatry (Something you treasure above Christ.). The point is to help others identify their idols in order to make way for who we should be idolizing: Christ.
 - Going Deeper: Joshua 7 is the example of how dangerous, damaging and deadly idolatry really is spiritually. Help the group to unpack those three themes in that chapter and apply them to our lives. (e.g. How is idolatry dangerous? How is idolatry damaging both to you and to others in your life? How is idolatry ultimately deadly? (cf. Judas Iscariot and money: Matt 26:14-16; Jn 12:4-6 & Matt 27:5)
- 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 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**

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- Where we're Going: Eternal Perspective. The reason we hang onto the things of this life so tightly is because we truly have no idea 1) How long eternity is in comparison to this brief life (James 4:14), and 2) How truly wonderful eternity will be with Christ.
 - Going Deeper: In Revelation 21:1-4 & 22:1-5, the Holy Spirit through John is trying to give us a picture of breathtaking heaven is. Read through these verses and discuss why Paul might write what he did in Philippians 3:8.
- 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? (Leader note: depending on the maturity of the group, you might have to give an example or two from your own life.) 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**
 - Where we're Going: The Purposes of God. The Lord will work in our lives to make us depend on Him in a myriad of ways (positive and negative, through pleasure and pain). That is what is implied in the scope of Romans 8:28.
 - Going Deeper: Read the following quote from Dr. Martin Lloyd-Jones: "Because we have been chosen to holiness we must and will become holy...being chosen and being holy are inseparable...God who has chosen you to holiness, will make you holy; and if the preaching of the word does not do so, he has other means and methods. He may strike you down with an illness; He may ruin your business. God will make you holy because he has chosen you unto holiness." Go around the group and get responses to this. Does this paint God in a positive or negative light? Perhaps point out to the group that surgery to take out a malignant tumor is not pleasurable at the time but it serves a greater future good.

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)