



Men's Golf Fellowship Speaker Discussion Questions

Mike Duke

Spiritual Topics: God's Plan, Sovereignty, Humility, Trusting God

About the Talk: The focus of the talk given by Mike Duke, the former CEO of Walmart, was centered on God's Plan for his life. Do you think God has a plan for individual lives? How does that plan work itself out in real life? What is your part in God's plan? These are questions that bear reflection and self-examination as we consider our lives.

Discussion Questions

- Mike spoke of many people that gave him counsel and spoke into his life (High school teacher Mr. McDaniel, first boss John Whitehaure, his wife Susan) and he was humble enough to listen. How about you? Do you consider yourself humble enough to take counsel, even if it is counter to the direction you believe is right? Have you ever taken counsel from someone that changed the course of your life? Have you ever had a mentor? If not, why? Do you actually allow other people to significantly speak into your life? Have you ever taken counsel that went against the practicalities of life or perhaps what you thought as right? **Related Scripture: 12:15 - The importance of others in our lives (see also Prov 11:14, 19:20, 27:6)**
- Mike used Yogi Berra's famous saying, "If you come to a fork in the road, take it" as a way to identify key moments where he saw God's plan working itself out in his life. Share with the group one substantial "fork in the road" that you have faced. How did you navigate the decision you made? Be honest, what part, if any, did your faith in God play in that decision? It has been said that 'God's fingerprints are all over your life, you just have to dust for prints'. Take some concerted time and look back over your life, do you see God's fingerprints (His plan) in your life at all? If so, how? **Related Scripture: Genesis 50:20 – Seeing God's plan in retrospect**
- Mike spoke of a time when he resigned from a significant job without having another one to go to. Have you ever done something like that? Have you ever left a secure position without having anywhere to go? Mike also said that he would wake up in the middle of the night and read and re-read Psalm 23 focusing on God's promise to take care of him. Have you ever considered that God takes care of you? Take a moment to read Psalm 23. (Leader note: Depending on the maturity of the group, have someone read it or read it aloud yourself) In general, how do you feel about being taken care of or trusting another person to care for you? Consider this in light of getting older and having others begin to care for you? Does it make you feel nervous, anxious, fearful, etc.? (Leader's note: you could take this in the direction of Christ as the Good Shepherd caring, loving, feeding, protecting comforting and ultimately sacrificing his life in order to save theirs. cf. Rom 5:6-8, 8:32) **Related Scripture: Prov. 3:5-6 – Trusting God**
- Mike had an epiphonal experience when he was in high school and the Georgia Tech football players challenged him that 'knowledge about Jesus wasn't enough, you need a relationship with him.' How does that challenge sit with you? What is the difference between knowing about someone and having a relationship with them? (Leader's note: If the group is ready, turn the discussion toward knowing about Jesus and having a relationship with Jesus?) **Related Scripture: John 17:3 – Relationship with Jesus**

Closing Prayer: Lord, I ask that you would give me wisdom and spiritual insight so that I may deepen my relationship with Jesus, that it would become more robust and intimate, and that I will begin to realize the glorious inheritance to which he has called me. Please help me to be like that man who cried out, "I believe, help my unbelief!" (Prayer based on Eph 1:17-18)

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