



Men's Golf Fellowship

Speaker Discussion Questions

Steve Robinson

Spiritual Topics: Growth, Religious Performance, Stewardship and Generosity

About the Talk

Steve Robinson's life was filled with what he called "milestone moments" that helped shape him both personally and spiritually. Some of these changed and challenged his perspective on such things as money, spiritual growth, the Church community and even how he approached his relationship with God. Let's explore these and other subjects together as a group.

Discussion Questions

- Steve told of a "milestone moment" when he got involved in a church for the first time and he began to really grow as a Christian. What role does Church community fill in your life? Is attending Church simply another checkbox to mark off in your weekly schedule, or is it more than that? Should it be more? In what way(s) do you think Church should challenge you to grow in your faith? (*Leader note: being part of a Church community challenges us in various ways such as dealing with people who are unlike you, forgiving people, caring for people, supporting one another physically/emotionally, allowing others to speak into your life, correct you, admonish you, etc.*) **Related Scripture: Ephesians 4:15-16 – Growing in Community**
- Steve discussed the time when he went on a corporate retreat and developed the Chick-Fil-A corporate purpose: *To glorify God by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us and to have a positive influence on all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A.* What if you began to live out that corporate purpose in your personal life? How would it change your life if in every decision you considered how: 1) it could glorify God; 2) you could be a positive influence and 3) you could practice great stewardship? What if you began to consider how you could glorify God with your spare time, with your finances and with the talents that you have? Think of one way that you could be a positive influence with the people in your

life like your wife, your children/grandchildren, your friends and even the people who work at your club? Please share that with the group. What if every financial decision was made with the overriding consideration of being a good steward? As a group begin to share a few ways of being a better steward with the things you have. **Scripture Reference: 1 Corinthians 10:31**

- Steve shared another milestone moment in his life with regard to money. He was asked by his pastor to chair a building project for his church. He had already put in his pledge, but felt that God wanted him to increase the amount of his pledge. By his own admission, he said that he held onto his money “tightly”, but that God used this experience to “loosen his grip” on money. What are some ways that blessings can flow as a result of our loosening our grip on money? *(Leader note: read Malachi 3:8-10, which uses the language of “robbing God” when you are not being generous with your resources. Ask the men how they react to that.)*
- Steve shared how growing up in a Christian home taught him to be a moral person and that his relationship with God was based on being a good person (what he termed “performance-based” religion). He confessed that as a result, he always felt a sense of guilt towards God. What do you think of that? Is that your experience? What, if anything, is wrong with this type of thinking? *(Leader note: you may have to explain that this is not the faith of the Bible. That all of our good works do not earn us anything from God. Refer to the related scripture below.)* Let’s explore some ways in which some people try to perform (i.e. earn our righteousness before God). *(Leader note: the point here is to try to identify some ways in which we try to earn our salvation. These can be such things as giving offerings at church, being a moral person, not drinking, being a faithful husband, not cursing, or serving on committees at church. These are not bad in and of themselves, but they don’t contribute to earning favor with God.)* **Related Scripture: Ephesians 2:8-9 – Salvation as a Gift**

Closing Prayer

Lord, help me to understand that as I approach a relationship with you, I bring nothing, I earn nothing, I am helpless and I need you to forgive me and wash my sins away. Help me to understand that I simply need to cling to the gracious and merciful cross of Christ. Amen. (Prayer based on the hymn *Rock of Ages* by Augustus Toplady)