



Men's Golf Fellowship

Speaker Discussion Questions

Jonathon Reckford

Spiritual Topics: Change, Façades, Injustice and Living a Useful life

About the Talk

Jonathan Reckford has led a very interesting and diverse business life from which he has learned many lessons. Some of the questions he has asked himself along the way have been: what does a useful life look like? What are the dangers of living with façades? How does God change us? Let's take advantage of our time together today and ask ourselves some of these questions and see what fruit they bear in our lives.

Discussion Questions

- Jonathan took some time detailing his career path, the different jobs he held, what he learned from them and how they shaped him. Now consider your career path. Pick one job you have held and describe how it stretched, challenged or shaped you. Were you ever stretched and challenged in a way that you didn't like or expect? How did that job change you? What is the balance in your life between changing the environment to fit you and you changing to fit your environment? In other words, how "moldable" should a person be? **Related Scripture: Isaiah 64:8 – Being molded**
- Jonathan briefly discussed dinners at his grandmother Millicent Fenwick's house, where she would ask him, "what are you going to do to be useful in your life?". As a group, work together to describe what a "useful" life would look like. First, answer that question looking back on your life. How was your life useful? Now looking forward, how could your life be more useful in the years ahead? Perhaps target one way that your life could be more useful. **Related Scripture: Micah 6:8 – A life well lived**
- In the conclusion of Jonathan's talk, he mentioned the fact that men are often good at managing their façade (how other people think of us). What façades do men wear? What are some of the ways men act that are meant to impress others, or meant to manipulate the way people think of them? Such as, their portfolio is not as robust as

people think, their job was not as important, their contribution not as key and their family not as perfect as people think. **Related Scripture: Revelation 3:1-2 – Façades**

- While telling of the impetus for his moving from the business world to the Christian non-profit world, he talked about a mission trip he took to the underbelly of India, where the world's poorest barely survive. Have you ever been to a place like that in your travels? He came back and felt what he describes as a "Holy Discontent." He went on to define the difference between discontent and holy discontent as the difference between being outraged and saying "someone should do something about that", or saying "I'm going to do something about that". Do you think you have ever experienced "holy discontent"? Have you ever been moved beyond personal outrage over an injustice to doing something about it? If so, what was it and what did you do? As a group, develop a list of some of the injustices in this world that could cause "holy discontent" (i.e. human trafficking, extreme poverty, homelessness, addiction, civil rights, etc.). What do you think would have to happen in your life to move you from discontent to holy discontent? **Related Scripture: James 2:14-18 – Holy discontent**

Closing Prayer

Lord, I willingly put myself in your hands. Mold me into the person that you want me to be, not who I want me to be. Begin replacing my heart with yours and challenge me to be the kind of person who acts on behalf of others. (Prayer based on James 1:2-4)