



Men's Golf Fellowship

Speaker Discussion Questions

Todd Peterson

Spiritual Topics: Works-Righteousness, Humility, Trusting God for your Reputation and Protection

About the Talk

Todd Peterson spoke very frankly and openly about his life and the lessons he learned from his career as a football place kicker. He spoke of how God used his “yesterdays” to prepare him for his “tomorrows” as he put it. Let’s take some time to look at some of his “yesterdays” and reflect on our own, so that we will be more prepared for our “tomorrows.”

Discussion Questions

- Todd spoke about a seminal God moment early on in his life, when he failed to make a critical kick in the final moments of an important game against the Georgia Bulldogs and lost the game. That failure and the ensuing lack of support made him realize that his perception of his life “was directly tied to how he performed.” He described it as a “performance trap.” When he succeeded, he felt good about himself and he was positive and fulfilled. But when he failed, he felt as if the bottom had dropped out of his life. It was a rollercoaster ride dependent on his success or failure. Can you relate to that? Does this describe your life? How important is success to you? Try to recall and share a big failure in your life. What did it feel like? How foundationally did it rock your life? Did you feel as if the bottom had dropped out from under you? What did it take to get you out of that pit? (*Leader Note: usually it takes another success.*) How about the reverse? Does public success make you feel strong and impregnable? **Related Scripture: Romans 8:16-17**
- Todd shared quite openly about a time when he called Planet Hollywood and tried to get a reservation using the prestige and power he thought his name and fame would garner. He was humbled when the receptionist did not even know who he was. Have you ever done anything like that? Can you recall any similar

type of experience in your own life where you were embarrassed or humbled like that? Do you expect people to treat you a certain way at the golf club, certain restaurants, or at your place of employment? Why? Is it appropriate to expect preferential treatment even though you might be paying for it? **Related Scripture: James 4:6**

- Todd told another life lesson when one of his kicks quite “mysteriously” veered right and missed the uprights. In the locker room when asked about it, he cast blame on his team. Why is it so tempting to blame someone else for your failure? What are you trying to protect when you do so? Take a moment and think of a time when you have blamed something, (*Leader Note: i.e. a distraction when putting, the market for your company’s poor performance, etc.*) or someone (*Leader Note: i.e. a person in your company, your spouse, etc.*) to protect your reputation. **Related Scripture: 2 Samuel 22:3**

Closing Prayer

Lord, I confess that I sometimes act more like an orphan than as your son. That I sometimes defend myself, blame others, and act prideful in guarding my reputation. Forgive me for trying to work and earn my way into your heart, rather than accepting your love. Finally, forgive me for protecting myself in those circumstances where you just want me to trust you to protect me. And, please give me wisdom to recognize those circumstances. Amen.