

Discussion Day 1: Is Anyone Trash?

I. *Narrator*: She grew up knowing one thing: she was trash.

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!” II Corinthians 5:17

1. Is anybody trash? Why or why not?
2. What if we say, “Are some people’s lives worth living?”
3. If you believe life has value, prove it.

II. *Maggie*: I’m thirty-two, Mr. Dunn, and I’m here celebrating the fact that I spent another year scraping dishes and waitressing, which is what I been doing since thirteen. And according to you I’ll be thirty-seven before I can even throw a decent punch, which after working this speed bag for a month and getting nowhere I now realize may be God’s simple truth....Problem is, this is the only thing I ever felt good doing. If I’m too old for this, then I got nothing. That enough truth to suit you?

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundations on the rock. But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.” Matthew 7:24-27

1. What did Maggie think made her life worth living?
2. Was that a good foundation for her life?
3. Is “feeling good” good enough?

Discussion Day 2: Whose Approval Do You Need?

I. *Maggie*: I can't be like this, Frankie. Not after what I've done. I seen the world. People chanted my name....they were chanting for me. I was in magazines. You think I ever dreamed that'd happen? ...I got what I needed. I got it all. Don't let them keep taking it away from me. Don't let me lie here till I can't hear those people chanting no more.

1. What did Maggie lose after she became crippled?
2. Could she ever get back what she lost?
3. Could her life still have had meaning?

II. *Maggie's mother*: People hear about what you're doing and they laugh. Hurts me to tell you but they laugh at you.

“...for they loved praise from men more than praise from God.” John 12:43

1. Whose approval did Maggie want?
2. Is it possible to win everyone's approval?
3. Whose approval is the most important: other people's, your own, or God's?
4. Who do you need approval from?
5. Whose approval does the Bible say we need?

Day 3: What is Your Life's Purpose?

I. *Frankie*: But now she wants to die, and I just want to keep her with me....By keeping her alive, I'm killing her. Do you know what I mean? How do I get around that?

Priest: You don't. You step aside, Frankie. You leave it with God.

Frankie: She's not asking for God's help. She's asking for mine.

—What does Frankie mean when he says, “By keeping her alive, I'm killing her”?

II. *Scrap Iron*: People die every day Frankie. Mopping floors. Washing dishes. And you know what their last thought is? I never got my shot. If she dies today, you know what her last thought will be? “I think I did all right.” I know I could rest with that.

1. Do you think you ever got a shot? Do you think you ever will?
2. Do you believe that you only get one chance in life?

III. “For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Ephesians 2:10

1. Consider the times both Joni and Maggie had time contemplating their lives. What differences do you notice while both were bed ridden?
2. What do you think Maggie's foundation was? Joni's? How did their foundations affect how they viewed their own lives?

IV. Maggie's praise is from man and she believes that she has nothing left to live for whereas Joni's praise is from God and to this day she continues to perform God's work.

1. Compare the praise both Maggie and Joni receive. Consider the ending of Joni where she gives a lecture.
2. When do you think you'll be ready to die?
3. What's your life's purpose? How would you feel if you lost the ability to accomplish that purpose?