



VOLUME 17.11
WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

source

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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A. INTRODUCTION

1. *WHERE ARE THEY NOW?* It's an old TV show that traced famous people, years after they had been "highly visible." It let you know WHAT THEY HAD ACTUALLY DONE WITH THEIR LIVES.
 - a. So that's what I'm calling my message tonight: "WHERE ARE THEY NOW?"
2. After all, where are YOU going to be 10, 20, or 30 years from now? What are people going to be able to SAY ABOUT YOU? How will they DESCRIBE YOU and what you did with your life...10, 20, or 30 years from now?
3. *Where Are They Now?* was made into a more updated version a few years back called, *AFTER THEY WERE FAMOUS*. Let's watch this brief clip they did about Lyndsey Lohan.
 - a. But before we show it...please take a minute to remember:
 - No one learns how to make RIGHT DECISIONS without the FEARFUL FREEDOM to make the WRONG ONES.
 - b. Let's take a look...Lyndsey Lohan, "Where is she now?"

VIDEO #1: LYNDSLEY LOHAN from *After They Were Famous* episode

(For the video we used, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

4. So again, that's tonight's question: What will you be like...10, 20, or 30 years from tonight? NOT TO DECIDE...IS TO DECIDE.
5. Here's the repeating line you'll hear me say over and over tonight:
 - EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.
6. OK, that phrase has a couple of uncommon terms.
 - a. Let me make sure we're all on the same page. Let's start with "TRAJECTORY."
 - A "trajectory" is a pathway, route, trail, or track which begins at a starting point and continues, AT THE SAME ANGLE, over time.
 - So OVER TIME, the trajectory angle becomes slowly greater and greater.
 - So when I say: EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.

- I'm saying that eventually, you put yourself HEADING IN A CERTAIN DIRECTION...a certain angle...a certain TRAJECTORY...that creates a MOST CERTAIN DESTINY...given enough time.
- b. THE SECOND TERM THAT MIGHT BE A LITTLE UNUSUAL FOR MANY OF US IS "INFLECTION POINT."
- It's a Calculus term. Let's watch a second quick video to help you understand what I mean by "INFLECTION POINT."
- Because though most of us won't connect with this term in Calculus...I PROMISE YOU THAT YOU'RE CONNECTING WITH IT IN LIFE already...and more than you think.

VIDEO #2: "INFLECTION POINT"

(For the video we used, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

- So, let me recap. If I were trying to re-word the term in simpler lingo...I'd just define the Inflection Point as "A point of contact that creates a DIFFERENCE IN DIRECTION."
 - If an object is traveling through space and remains untouched, it will infinitely travel along its same point of TRAJECTORY...or its same PATHWAY.
 - But if that same object, at some point, COLLIDES with another object and is moved even .0000001 degree one way or the other, that object's PATHWAY (trajectory) has been dramatically changed as it moves into the future. That small but strategic point of contact is referred to as the INFLECTION POINT.
7. So here's my focus tonight:
- a. All year long, we'll each be EXPERIENCING personal "inflection points" AND creating "inflection points" for other people all around us.
 - Maybe it will be a conversation, a decision, a class, a prayer time or Scripture study that you're doing.
 - Just realize that most of the time, you won't stop long enough to even be AWARE OF THEIR IMPACT. But I promise you...they WILL be happening.
 - b. These brief INFLECTION POINTS will always set you on a different TRAJECTORY...not just for these 9 months...but for the REST OF YOUR LIFE.
 - c. You either CREATE YOUR FUTURE...or your future will CREATE YOU.

- d. Beyond that, please remember that you are also CREATING inflection points for OTHER PEOPLE this year. They'll be either be positive or negative. I just promise you that over the long-haul, very few of these inflection points will prove to be NEUTRAL.
 8. So let me say it again. It's a PICTURE of what will be happening for every single one of us this year...over and over again:
 - EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.
 9. Given the TRAJECTORY you are on now...WHERE WILL YOU BE...10, 20, 30 years from now?
 10. "DESTINY is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved." —William Jennings Bryan
 11. More thoughts? When it comes to your destiny, not to choose...IS ALWAYS to choose.
 12. Some of our actors and actresses tonight will COME OUT OF THE AUDIENCE... because that's how REAL LIFE will really work. Your FUTURE reality...will always walk out of your PRESENT reality.
 - a. "The secret of your FUTURE is hidden in your DAILY ROUTINES."
- B. SCENE #1: Written for all of us who dream of "SUCCESS, MONEY, AND TOYS."
1. Mark 8:36, *"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?"*
 2. EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.
 3. LUKE is an adult man in his 40's now. He is a man who has everything the world says makes you successful and cool. His focus for success has been MATERIALISM and WOMEN. He's rich and "successful." But ultimately, he's lost his marriage and his two sons.
 - a. Where is he now...20 years later?
 - b. Where have his values and priorities taken him?
 - c. Let's take a look. And if you think I privately told LUKE the Enemy meant this to be his "reality," you're right.
 - It's the same with some of you. The only difference is, I haven't told you. SO WATCH CAREFULLY.

DRAMA #1—LUKE: THE EXECUTIVE

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

The scene: A cool, trendy, expensive executive office...shown on screens.

Mood and clothing: Luke is dressed in a suit and looks very “executive” and well to do. His personal assistant is dressed professionally. Soft music is playing.

4. Who’s the real fool? I guess that would have to be a lot of us. We know all the right answers when we’re at the youth service. It’s NOT money, toys and people of the opposite sex.
5. Here’s the real question: Do we SAY the right answers or do we LIVE the right answers.
6. Sad is the story of the man who “climbed the ladder of success”...only to get to the top and realize that he had leaned his ladder AGAINST THE WRONG WALL.
7. EVENT HAPPENS... INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.

C. SCENE #2: For all our ATHLETES. You know who you are. Those among us who internally believe that being “famous” on a field or a court would be one of the “highest highs” you could ever experience.

1. Tay depicts YOUR possible future, whether you happen to be male or female.
2. And in our drama tonight, Tay has become GOOD...really GOOD...on the basketball court.
3. I guess you could describe her as a sports hero who built her identity around her performance on the court and around “being strong.”
4. Where is she now...20 years later? Where will these values and priorities take her?

DRAMA #2—THE ATHLETE

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

The scene: Tay is sitting on a high stool being interviewed by a *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED* writer.

Mood and clothing: Tay is dressed either in basketball apparel or a warm-up suit. She is arrogant and cocky. Soft music is playing.

5. Sad is the story of the man who “climbed the ladder of success”...only to get to the top and realize that he had leaned his ladder AGAINST THE WRONG WALL.
 6. EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.
 7. The best way to PREDICT your future is to INVENT it.
 - a. Proverbs 13:7, *“Consider the man who MAKES HIMSELF RICH, yet he really has NOTHING. And then there is another man who is really poor, yet he really has GREAT RICHES.”*
 - b. Philippians 1:6, *“Being confident of this one thing: That He who has BEGUN a good work inside of you will COMPLETE IT before the Day of Jesus Christ.”*
 8. Here’s the painful truth as we look towards even the next 12 months...
 - a. None of us really decide our own DESTINY. Instead, we decide our HABITS and our habits WILL DECIDE OUR DESTINY.
 - Did you have a Quiet Time this morning?
 - That was an INFLECTION POINT...positive or negative.
 - b. It only takes 21-30 days of consistency to develop a HABIT. After that period of discipline, it becomes HARDER NOT TO DO IT than to repeat the pattern. That’s a loud statement when considered in the light of BOTH positive AND negative habits.
 - And since I’m asking you tonight “WHERE WILL YOU BE?” 10, 20, or 30 years from now...let me throw another thought out to you.
 - Envision the power of only creating 3 new positive habits a year. In only 4 years (just the length of your high school career) you would have 12 new positive habits, and better yet, you would have a TRANSFORMED LIFE.
 - c. Let me remind you again, not to choose...IS ALWAYS to choose.
 - d. Remember: All men eventually die, but few men REALLY LIVE.
- D. SCENE #3: Depicts a typical, “good, church-going adult” who did “nothing special with his life.” He just continued to move into the future “filling in all the right squares.” Yet in his heart of hearts, he knows his spiritual complacency and self-centeredness has made him “miss the boat” spiritual destiny-wise. He had DREAMS of “making a difference,” but he’s allowed all of that to slip through his fingers.
1. His destiny? It’s exactly where a bunch of us are heading: “Nothing too bad...but nothing too good.”

2. Revelation 3:16, *"So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot spiritually, I will VOMIT you back out of my mouth, says the Lord."*
3. Where is he now...20 years later? Where will these values and priorities take him?
4. EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.
5. The best way to PREDICT your future is to INVENT it.

This next drama depicts the normal "church-goer." He's not done anything real "bad." But he's allowed SPIRITUAL APATHY and his SELF-CENTEREDNESS to eat away at his dreams.

DRAMA #3—KYLE: THE CHURCH-GOER

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

Scene: 2037 Atlanta Leadership College REUNION.

Mood and clothing: Kyle dresses in clothing that makes him appear to be a sharp, dressy casual man of around 40 years of age at our ALC 2037 Reunion. He wears a sports jacket, etc. Slightly up-scale appearance. Michael first hosts a fun REUNION SCENE.

At end of brief fun reunion scene, the others walk off stage and back into the audience. MICHAEL and KYLE see each other. And soft music begins.

6. In 20 years, will you tragically be described as: "Nothing too bad...but nothing too good."?
 - a. What an agonizingly painful way to summarize your DESTINY.
 - b. DESTINY is purpose in your life! Don't you want to have a purpose that's bigger than yourself?
 - c. How willing are you to FIGHT to cultivate your own PERSONAL SELF-DISCIPLINE?
 - d. Because it WILL be a FIGHT...and one you will wage every single day.
 - e. But if you're too emotionally LAZY to fight to develop your own SELF DISCIPLINE, your future will be a GUARANTEED DISAPPOINTMENT.
6. Sad is the story of the man who "climbed the ladder of success"...only to get to the top and realize that he had leaned his ladder AGAINST THE WRONG WALL.
7. EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.
8. The best way to PREDICT your future is to INVENT it.

- E. SCENE #4: LET'S LOOK AT A FINAL EXAMPLE. I'VE SAVED IT FOR OUR CONCLUSION BECAUSE IT'S THE ONE THAT ALMOST EVERYONE IN THE ROOM WILL DEEPLY RELATE TO. IT DEALS WITH RELATIONSHIPS, both friendships and romantic ones, and HOW WE HANDLE THOSE "INFLECTION POINTS" IN OUR LIVES.
1. But first, let me share a passage from Exodus 32 that ROCKED MY WORLD as a college student many years ago. Moses had just come down from getting the 10 Commandments from Jehovah God. When Moses got near the camp, he saw that the Israelites had DEEPLY VIOLATED the directives of Jehovah. They had created a GOLDEN CALF IDOL and had begun to WORSHIP IT.
 - a. In a moment of righteous anger, Moses threw the tablets that held the 10 Commandments to the ground. They lay broken into pieces at the foot of the mountain.
 - Beware of UNDOING in a careless moment of disobedience the work that God's spirit and grace has taken MUCH TIME to build.
 2. I can just hear you thinking, "What's this Scripture got to do with me? I DON'T WORSHIP IDOLS!"
 - a. IDOLATRY isn't necessarily worshipping an IMAGE of some sort. In Scripture, idolatry is when I let my heart move away from Jesus and put someone/or something ELSE at the center of my heart's affections.
 - b. Ezekiel 14:2-7, *"And the Word of the Lord came to me saying, 'These men have created IDOLS IN THEIR OWN HEARTS...Should I even listen to them when they pray?...I am still trying to capture their hearts. But because of the idols, they are far away from Me.'"*
 3. Let's continue reading from Exodus 32 and the Golden Calf account, especially verse 20. It says something important to all of us:
 - a. *"Then Moses took the golden calf idol and melted it in the fire. When it cooled, he pounded the idol into POWDER. He took the powder and spread it over the surface of the water. Then He told the people to drink it."*
 - b. Wow. That's the Scripture that really rocked my world in college. Did you catch it?
 - c. In life, we will all eventually DRINK from the "powder" of where we have placed our heart's affection.
 - d. When will we ever learn that most of the "relational idols" we cling to are often nothing more than "glorified dust"?
 4. OUR 4th and FINAL SCENE FROM "WHERE ARE THEY NOW"? IT COULD DEPICT MANY OF US, both male and female.

- a. KAITLYN depicts a trendy, good looking woman who has entered the fashion industry.
 - b. She is a model and a stylist.
 - c. But she's build her IDENTITY around RELATIONSHIPS.
 - d. And so it's taken her down a painful path of relational heartbreak.
 - e. She's successful on the OUTSIDE, but lonely, broken and splintered on the INSIDE...all because she's made RELATIONSHIPS to be way too important to her.
5. Where is she now...20 years later?
- a. Where will these values and priorities take her?
 - b. Listen carefully. Most of you would never end up in a fashion career. But don't kid yourselves. MANY OF YOU ALLOW RELATIONSHIPS TO BE SO IMPORTANT THAT THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE WILL BE ALTERED...either positively or negatively.
 - c. Show me your friends, romantic or not, and I WILL show you your future.
6. EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.

DRAMA #4—KAITLYN SMITH: THE PERSON WHO HAS BUILT THEIR IDENTITY AND SECURITY AROUND RELATIONSHIPS.

(For the video we used, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com or go to vimeo.com/240846550)

The scene: She's in the midst of FASHION WEEK in New York City. A couple of people are around her, doing hair, helping her prepare parts of her outfit, or a jacket hanging in the background.

Mood and clothing: Mood is up-scale and trendy. New York Fashion Week—behind the scenes—before Kaitlyn walks onto the runway to model. Soft music is playing.

- 7. "They always hang up!" There's only ONE PERSON on the other end of the line that doesn't hang up on you. There is only ONE PERSON who will always be who you need Him to be. And His Name is Jesus Christ.
- 8. EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.
- 9. The best way to PREDICT your future is to INVENT it.

10. Tonight we have positioned 4 stations in the 4 corners of this auditorium. Each station has a large container of pure water. But we have added BAKING SODA to each container of water to represent the powdered water that Moses told the Children of Israel to drink from.
 - a. Exodus 32:20, *"Then Moses took the golden calf idol and melted it in the fire. When it cooled, he pounded the idol into POWDER. He took the powder and spread it over the surface of the water. Then he told the people to drink it."*
 - b. Remember my statement? If you forget my other points, I hope you hold on to this one: In life, we will all eventually DRINK from the "powder" of where we have placed our hearts. When will we ever learn that most of the "relational idols" we cling to are often nothing more than "glorified dust"?
 - c. So during your closing prayer time tonight, we're asking you to do TWO THINGS: First, go by one of the four stations and dip the small Dixie cup we provide you into the "powdered water." Baking soda is sure not anything that will hurt you, but we want the taste to linger for a minute in your mouth. Maybe if you remember the TASTE of "drinking from your idols," you'll be less likely to LIVE THAT PAINFUL DESTINY IN REAL LIFE.
11. The chorus we're playing says "Come Holy Spirit, Burn like a fire. All Consuming One, Consume me."
 - a. I just beg you to make that song more than cheap words.
 - Whether you most related with LUKE as the person who could put too much weight on "success, money, and toys."
 - Or to TAY as someone who has made SPORTS way too pivotal in your life.
 - Or to KYLE who is "not too good...but not too bad."
 - Or to KAITLYN who reminds all of us that relationships we make too important can destroy us from the inside out.
 - b. JUST PLEASE MAKE TONIGHT'S PRAYER TIME COUNT. Make it a "spiritual inflection point" that creates a TRAJECTORY CHANGE in your life. Your spiritual destiny will be altered if you do.
 - c. The best way to PREDICT your future is to INVENT it.
 - d. So tonight, LET'S ALL DO SOME "INVENTING."
10. Secondly, come to the front where we've prepared a GIFT for each of you to help remember this evening's important message. It's a small ladder, reflecting on the repeating line all night:

Sad is the story of the man who "climbed the ladder of success"...only to get to the top and realize that he had leaned his ladder AGAINST THE WRONG WALL.

CLOSING SONG:

Come Holy Spirit...
Burn like a fire.
All Consuming One,
Consume me.

Here in Your presence,
Lord I surrender...
To Your glory...
For Your glory.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

A. INTRODUCTION

1. *WHERE ARE THEY NOW?* It's an old TV show that traced famous people, years after they had been "highly visible." It let you know WHAT THEY HAD ACTUALLY DONE WITH THEIR LIVES.
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- Because though most of us won't connect with this term in Calculus...I PROMISE YOU THAT YOU'RE CONNECTING WITH IT IN LIFE already...and more than you think.
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 - c. In life, we will all eventually DRINK from the "powder" of where we have placed our heart's affection.
 - d. When will we ever learn that most of the "relational idols" we cling to are often nothing more than "glorified dust"?
4. "They always hang up!" There's only ONE PERSON on the other end of the line that doesn't hang up on you. There is only ONE PERSON who will always be who you need Him to be. And His Name is Jesus Christ.
5. EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED.
6. The best way to PREDICT your future is to INVENT it.

VIDEOS

VIDEO #1: LYNDSEY LOHAN from *After They Were Famous* episode

(For the video we used, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

VIDEO #2: “INFLECTION POINT”

(For the video we used, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

DRAMA #1—LUKE: THE EXECUTIVE

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

The scene: A cool, trendy, expensive executive office...shown on screens.

Mood and clothing: Luke is dressed in a suit and looks very “executive” and well to do. His personal assistant is dressed professionally. Soft music is playing.

DRAMA #2—THE ATHLETE

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

Scene: 2037 Atlanta Leadership College REUNION.

Mood and clothing: Kyle dresses in clothing that makes him appear to be a sharp, dressy casual man of around 40 years of age at our ALC 2037 Reunion. He wears a sports jacket, etc. Slightly up-scale appearance. Michael first hosts a fun REUNION SCENE.

At end of brief fun reunion scene, the others walk off stage and back into the audience. MICHAEL and KYLE see each other. And soft music begins.

DRAMA #3—KYLE: THE CHURCH-GOER

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

Scene: 2037 Atlanta Leadership College REUNION.

Mood and clothing: Kyle dresses in clothing that makes him appear to be a sharp, dressy casual man of around 40 years of age at our ALC 2037 Reunion. He wears a sports jacket, etc. Slightly up-scale appearance. Michael first hosts a fun REUNION SCENE.

At end of brief fun reunion scene, the others walk off stage and back into the audience. MICHAEL and KYLE see each other. And soft music begins.

DRAMA #4—KAITLYN SMITH: THE PERSON WHO HAS BUILT THEIR IDENTITY AND SECURITY AROUND RELATIONSHIPS.

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

The scene: She's in the midst of FASHION WEEK in New York City. A couple of people are around her, doing hair, helping her prepare parts of her outfit, or a jacket hanging in the background.

Mood and clothing: Mood is up-scale and trendy. New York Fashion Week—behind the scenes—before Kaitlyn walks onto the runway to model. Soft music is playing.

DRAMA #1—LUKE: THE EXECUTIVE

While the audio portion has been omitted due to the length of the evening, it is a very funny skit. It might be a fun opening creative element if you make Hoarders a series instead of a stand alone night.

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

The scene: A cool, trendy, expensive executive office...shown on screens.

Mood and clothing: Luke is dressed in a suit and looks very “executive” and well to do. His personal assistant is dressed professionally. Soft music is playing.

Personal Assistant: Mr. George, your business partner in your clothing corporation just called and said that the Shopping Network wants to advertise your latest clothing line! Isn't that incredible news?

Luke: It is incredible news. But, Miranda, it's nothing unexpected.

Personal Assistant: True...really true.

Well, sir, what would like for me to say to the Wells Fargo bank executive about your next \$3.5 million dollar loan. He's really hoping that you like the terms he suggested.

Luke: Tell him that he's going to have to do better than his current 5% negotiating rate. There's too many other banks who want to be able to say that they were MY choice.

Personal Assistant: I've got that. I'll get right back to him. Well, sir, is there anything that you would like me to get you for lunch?

Luke: Oh...I'm bored with shrimp and lobster. Call Ruth Chris, and order me a filet mignon—medium rare. And remind the chef I used to COOK back in my college years and I can be pretty picky. So, they'd better do a decent job on my steak...or I'm not paying their ridiculous prices! The last one I got from them was a little tough.

Personal Assistant: Yes, sir. I'll make sure they have it here right at noon. Buzz me if you want anything else. *[She walks off stage.]*

Luke: *[Talking to himself. Luke gets up from desk and walks to front of staging area...thinking out loud to himself. Music changes to soft dark.]*

“Buzz me if you want anything else?”

That's a joke. I want “PLENTY ELSE.” Like a sense of MEANINGFUL PURPOSE ...a family that RESPECTS me...or what I'd do for some time to EVEN ENJOY all

the toys I've spent my LIFE CHASING AFTER.

But it's all empty...really, really empty.

Get a hold of yourself, Luke! This isn't you! Years ago...back in Atlanta at ALC...I learned some Bible verses that still HAUNT me even now. Like "*Vanity...vanity...all is vanity.*" That wasn't supposed to be me, though.

You're talking like a lower-class idiot. You have everything you've ever wanted. MONEY...FAME...CARS...boy we've got some cars, man. What about that house in the suburbs for the weekend, the big house in the city, the condo in Hawaii? We have everything.

But I still can't deal with this restlessness inside of me.

[Pausing...then going back to desk to desk to sit down. He starts to work on his computer/or his cell. Then abruptly looks up.]

I can't keep pretending that I'm happy...that I've got it all together. I don't even know WHY I BOTHER GETTING UP IN THE MORNING.

How much money is enough? How much money is enough, Luke?

How much money would it take to get back my wife? To get back a wife that actually respects me...who cares? It's no use! That big house is SO EMPTY.

Better question yet...how much money would I have to pay BOTH OF MY SONS to EARN BACK THEIR RESPECT? That's a joke. There's not enough money in all my bank accounts to make that happen.

[Stopping to be broken...then finally speaks again.]

I've spent my life in the middle of the rat-race. And now I've climbed the ladder to the top...and all I am is the CHIEF RAT.

Who's been the real FOOL? Well...I think that would have to be ME.

LIGHTS OUT. SCENE CONCLUDES

DRAMA #2—THE ATHLETE

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

The scene: Tay is sitting on a high stool being interviewed by a *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED* writer.

Mood and clothing: Tay is dressed either in basketball apparel or a warm-up suit. She is arrogant and cocky. Soft music is playing.

INTERVIEWER: *[He appears to be taking notes while he interviews her.]*

Well, Ms. Williams, on behalf of *Sports Illustrated*, I'm so glad we could make this interview happen. We've been trying to work our way into your schedule for several months now. I'm so glad you could finally squeeze us in.

TAY: You're welcome, young man. Just do a great job on the write-up and remember to let me read it first before you send it to your editors.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, mam. I most definitely will. Before we end, may I ask one last question?

TAY: *[Thrown off a bit]* Well...it depends on what the question is, young man. Go ahead.

INTERVIEWER: What would you say is the PRIMARY FACTOR that has set you apart in the world of professional sports from other female athletes?

TAY: That's easy. I'm BETTER than all my competition. When you're BETTER than them...stronger than them...faster than them...you become INTIMIDATING before you even step foot on that court. That explains this CHAMPIONSHIP RING on my hand! I'm in a league of my own. Just make sure you get that to your editors, okay? By the way, I'm assuming I'm your COVER STORY, right?

INTERVIEWER: Of course, Ms. Williams. When you're the immortal TAY WILLIAMS, you BELONG nowhere else besides the COVER of *Sports Illustrated Magazine*. Ms. Williams, again, on behalf of *Sports Illustrated Magazine*, I would like to thank you for your time and the interview. I'll forward the article and of course, the pictures, to you within the next 48 hours.

[He starts to walk away.]

TAY: *[Calling out to him as he leaves.]*

Hey you...kid...make it the next 24 hours, because I'm on an international flight after that.

INTERVIEWER: *[Answering as he leaves.]*

Yes, mam. Of course. You really do have an amazing LIFE!

[TAY IS LEFT ALONE. She briefly plays around with a ball or looks inside her gym bag. Then sits down on a locker bench or interview chair. Music changes to soft dark.]

TAY: An amazing life. Are you proud yet, Dad?

[Raising her voice and almost yelling it the second time.]

I don't hear your answer! HAVE I MADE YOU PROUD YET?

I'm the next big thing. People call me the emerging super-star of women's basketball. *Sports Illustrated* is putting me on their cover. The Olympic Team is around the corner. I'm everything I ever dreamed of being in high school. Scratch that. I'm everything YOU ever told me I needed to be!

And by the way, Dad. I DON'T EVER CRY! Are you hearing me? You told me to be the best I had to be TOUGH...that there was no such thing as WEAKNESS. And I'm NOT. As a matter of fact, I'm tougher than most of the men in my world. I hope that makes YOU happy. Real happy. Cause the truth is...it doesn't make me happy.

[Pausing again...changing mood from anger/frustration to depression.]

Don't KID YOURSELF, Tay. Nobody really cares about the REAL YOU. They don't care that underneath that magazine cover is a person frozen by fear.

"Inoperable cancer"...the doctor muttered those words to me...so "matter of fact"...just last week in his office.

Wonder what good my trophies and money will do me a year from now? Worse yet, who will even act like they KNOW ME when I can't be the "super star" on the court anymore?

Why does any of it matter, Tay? Face your reality. None of it will mean anything a few months from now. You have CANCER...the nasty kind they say they can't fix!

The doctor even told me to "get my affairs in order."

SO YOU'RE DYING, *Sports Illustrated Super Star!* YOU'RE DYING! Face it like a big girl. Cause I really don't have any choice.

[Breaking...starting to cry.]

Funny, as a college girl, I used to believe that Jesus answers prayers. I used to believe that He HEALS people. Too bad I decided that my sports career was a bigger deal than all of that. Too bad, cause now I'm facing death. And last time I checked, I can't BUY my way out of this...and I sure can't SCORE my way out of it.

Maybe being WONDER WOMAN...isn't so WONDERFUL...after all.

LIGHTS OUT. SCENE CONCLUDES.

DRAMA #3—KYLE: THE CHURCH-GOER

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

Scene: 2037 Atlanta Leadership College REUNION.

Mood and clothing: Kyle dresses in clothing that makes him appear to be a sharp, dressy casual man of around 40 years of age at our ALC 2037 Reunion. He wears a sports jacket, etc. Slightly up-scale appearance. Michael first hosts a fun REUNION SCENE. *(Just create a REUNION SCENE for your particular ministry. You'll build the opening part of this scene around recent memories that you know most people in your group will remember.)*

At end of brief fun reunion scene, the others walk off stage and back into the audience. MICHAEL and KYLE see each other. And soft music begins.

MICHAEL: Wow, Kyle Bunderson...what's up? How are you? It's great to see you!

KYLE: It's good to see you too!

MICHAEL: You haven't changed much in 20 years!

KYLE: Man, I don't know if that's good thing or a bad thing. I mean, the part about me not changing much!

MICHAEL: You've still got the Troy Bolton haircut and it looks like you haven't been on *The Biggest Loser* yet...so it looks like you're doing pretty well.

KYLE: Hey, I saw on Facebook that you've been helping to coach your son's football team besides pastoring that church. Way to go, man!

MICHAEL: I appreciate that. The Lord's been really good to me. Thanks, Kyle. Sorry, I've done a pretty rotten job of keeping up. Life has been so busy! I feel like I've really gotten to accomplish everything I've wanted to. It's been great! Remember in the 2017 opening chapel when you told me that you were going to start a ministry and have a career in business? How's that been going?

KYLE: Oh...just the normal business career journey. Nothing terribly out of the ordinary. But it's been OK, all in all. Nothing too bad...nothing too good.

MICHAEL: That's awesome...I guess. Well, great seeing you. Will I see you in the Reunion program? They said it was starting at 8 PM.

KYLE: Of course! Save me a seat, alright?

MICHAEL: I've got you. Let me tell you...it's gonna be lit!

[Michael exits back into the audience as they exchange farewells. Kyle is left alone and talks to himself. His mood changes to THOUGHTFUL and increasingly sad.]

KYLE: Huh...what a summary of the past 20 years of my life. "Kyle, you haven't changed much at all." Then I hear MYSELF say, "What's the past 20 years been like? Nothing too bad...but nothing too good."

That's a pretty lame way to sum up 20 years of living. "Nothing too bad...but nothing too good."

[Pausing...then talking again to himself.]

Man, I had a lot of pretty incredible memories in this place. 20 years went faster than I ever dreamed possible. I wish things would have turn out like I thought they would.

I remember back to that Opening Chapel...that fall night in Athens. I told the Big Man Upstairs I really wanted my life to COUNT for Him. Back then, I had BIG DREAMS and even a BIGGER HEART. Wonder where they all went?

[Pausing to think. Then he talks again.]

Well, Jesus, I'll head over to the auditorium for the Reunion Program. Sorry that all I wound up doing for You was SHOWING UP FOR CHURCH and HELPING USHER once a month. Not exactly the "DESTINY" we talked about 20 years ago.

[Kyle starts to walk off...turns around as though to look back at the room...then speaks again.]

"DESTINY." Big word.

[Pause again.]

Wonder if I'll ever really LIVE IT.

LIGHTS OUT. SCENE CONCLUDES.

DRAMA #4—KAITLYN SMITH: The person who has built their identity and security around relationships

(For a video of our drama, email us at video@youthleaderscoach.com)

The scene: She's in the midst of FASHION WEEK in New York City. A couple of people are around her, doing hair, helping her prepare parts of her outfit, or a jacket hanging in the background.

Mood and clothing: Mood is up-scale and trendy. New York Fashion Week—behind the scenes—before Kaitlyn walks onto the runway to model. Soft music is playing.

DIRECTOR: *[Calling in impatiently as he/she walks past Kaitlyn's dressing area hurriedly.]*

Ms. Smith, your call-time for the fashion runway is in 30 minutes!

KAITLYN: *[Comes across as bossy and as a diva.]*

I hear you! I hear you! If I'm not ready, they'll just have to wait!

[Speaking now to her hair stylist.]

Could you fix right here on my hair? It doesn't compliment my smile the way it needs to.

HAIR STYLIST: Yes, Ms. Smith. Whatever you want.

WARDROBE ASSISTANT: *[Picking up cell phone.]*

Ms. Smith, you have an important phone call.

KAITLYN: I'm not talking with ANYONE now. I'm on the runway in a few minutes.

WARDROBE ASSISTANT: *[Quietly...as though not wanting to embarrass her.]*

But it's...it's HIM.

KAITLYN: *[Melting...and whole attitude changing from arrogance to being a "whipped puppy."]*

HIM? Are you sure?

WARDROBE ASSISTANT: Absolutely. I remember his voice clearly.

KAITLYN: *[Obviously very rattled.]*

Well...well...I'll take the call. Can you all give me some privacy?

WARDROBE ASSISTANT: Sure, we're out of here. We'll be in the hallway right outside.

HAIR STYLIST: If you need our assistance on anything else before you head to the runway, just text.

[The two exit. Kaitlyn puts the cell phone up to talk, but struggles to keep it together. Music changes to soft dark.]

KAITLYN: Brandon, is this YOU?

[You don't hear his voice. You only assume she is talking to Brandon. Kaitlyn pauses, as though listening to him.]

Please...could we at least get together to TALK one more time? I haven't been able to hold any food down since you moved out of my apartment last week...

[PAUSE AGAIN...listening.]

Please, Brandon. You're the only one who MATTERS. He was only in my life one night. ONE NIGHT! I had too much to drink and didn't even know what I was doing.

[PAUSE. Her voice then crumbles to begging.]

I will do ANYTHING. Do you hear me? I will walk away from this all. I just have to have YOU. I HAVE to have YOU.

[PAUSE AGAIN.]

Brandon, please...don't hang up. Let's get together just one last time to TALK. I'm BEGGING you...PLEASE...don't hang up!

[It's like he hangs up on her. Her voice changes when she recognizes he's not there.]

Brandon? Brandon?

[Pause again.]

You filthy USER! He hung up on me again.

[She puts phone down...Pauses. Then walks to a mirror and talks to herself.]

So how do you like what you see in the mirror, you famous model and fashion consultant? He hung up on you! He always hangs up on you! You don't NEED him! Look at yourself. You've never needed ANY OF THEM!

[Desperately and angrily...almost yelling.]

That's right! I've NEVER NEEDED ANY OF THEM. Not one single one of them! They all promised they'd be different. That's a farce.

[NOTE: Change Diana's name here in script to youth pastor's name or another suitable person.]

Years ago, way back in college days, that Diana girl. What was her last name? Diana...she was the one. She used to push it down my throat all the time. All that stuff about needing to BUILD MY IDENTITY AROUND CHRIST...not in other people, and sure not in GUYS. That was a crock.

Maybe not such a crock...now that I think about it.

DIRECTOR: *[Calling in impatiently as he/she walks past Kaitlyn's dressing area one last time.]*

Ms. Smith, your call-time for the fashion runway is 3 minutes and counting! I advise you to pull yourself together...quickly.

KAITLYN: OK, Kaitlyn, pull it together. He hung up on you. THEY ALL HANG UP ON YOU! Get it through your head once and for all.

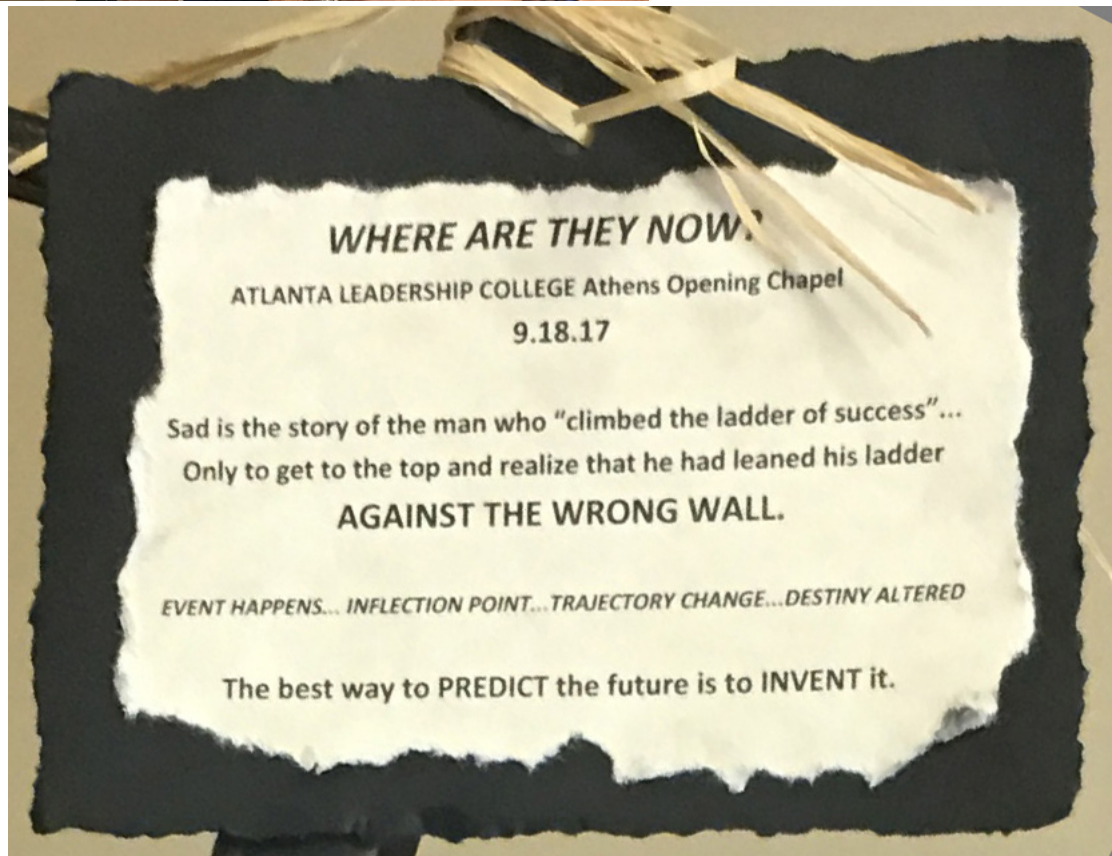
Get out on that runway. And when you come back in, find another toilet to puke your lunch back up in. If this figure goes away, you don't have anything left.

As a matter of fact, I don't think there's much left even now.

LIGHTS OUT. SCENE CONCLUDES.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1. A ladder, with a tag that says,
“WHERE ARE THEY NOW?
Sad is the story of the man who “climbed the ladder of success”...only to get to the top and realize that he had leaned his ladder AGAINST THE WRONG WALL.
EVENT HAPPENS...INFLECTION POINT...TRAJECTORY CHANGE...DESTINY ALTERED
The best way to PREDICT the future is to INVENT it.”
(See the sample of the one we gave away.)
2. Fake money (*you can purchase \$1,000,000 bills very cheaply*), write on it, “*‘For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?’ —Mark 8:36*”
3. A picture showing an “INFLECTION POINT,” at the bottom write, “What you will you be like 10, 20, or 30 years from tonight? ‘Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not a thing to be waited for; it is a thing to be achieved.’ —William Jennings Bryan
4. A basketball keychain with a tag that says, “*‘Consider the man who MAKE HIMSELF RICH, yet he really has NOTHING. And then there is another man who is really poor, yet he really has GREAT RICHES.’ —Proverbs 13:7*”
5. A toy cell phone with a tag that says, “There’s only ONE PERSON on the other end of the line that doesn’t hang up on you.”



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

1. What's something (it can be a fun thing!) that you really want people to remember about you? It can be that you were a great soccer player, a loyal friend, a caring son or brother?
2. What GOOD ACTIONS do you do to make you think that people will remember you for? Is it that you take care of your team really well? Is it that you always take out the garbage before it has to be asked for? Is it that you don't ever engage in gossip? Or you refuse to cuss, even though all your friends might?
3. What is one thing, which maybe, like many of us, you're not so proud that you're known for? Maybe it's that sometimes, though you don't always mean it, you talk back to your parent or teacher? Or maybe it's that you talk behind your friend's back sometimes in the name of "venting"?
4. What is one thing you can do this week to change that? What can you do to help turn that change into a habit?
5. Take 60 seconds and think of the person that you respect most. Think of what it is about them that you respect so much. Share that with the group.
6. Based on who you are, who you are working to be, and who you look at as a role model, what would you say is the #1 thing that you want to be OUTSTANDING about you, that you will work on, so that 20 years from now, people will say THAT about you?
7. Think a little deeper. What would you want JESUS HIMSELF to say about you?
8. *[After students share, close in prayer.]*

BUILDING SOMETHING IN YOUTH MINISTRY THAT WILL LAST

by Jeanne Maoyo

Someone once privately asked me an interesting question. **“How do you build something in youth ministry that will really last, Jeanne?”** the guy asked quietly. The intensity behind his voice and the seriousness in his eyes told me that he probably had a personal story behind the question. Let me highlight for you a few of the things that I shared with him.

1. Focus on building a destiny—not a dynasty.

- A destiny deals with *people*, but a dynasty deals with *programs*.
- Destiny tends to focus on *significance*, but a dynasty focuses on *success*.
- A person of destiny prioritizes *servanthood*, but someone focused on a dynasty prioritizes *servitude*.

All along the youth ministry journey, there will be the temptation to focus on the more visible, the more spectacular, and the more sensational. But from my vantage point of over 40 exciting years in full-time youth ministry, I can assure you that those things won't build a ministry that will last. It will be the non-glamorous moments of personal discipling, laborious planning, and behind-the-scenes praying that will come together to create a ministry that will really last. Don't get too impressed with the spectacular. Jesus isn't.

2. Choose or lose.

In other words, be a person who doesn't just stumble into his priorities, but a person who very purposefully chooses his priorities. Thoreau once said, “It is not enough to be busy. So are the ants. The question is ‘what are you busy doing?’”

The busier you are as a youth leader, the more strategic you have to become about living a “choose or lose” lifestyle. We're all familiar with the Pareto Principle that tells us “20% of our time efforts will usually produce 80% of our results.” So if you want to create a lasting ministry impact in students' lives, you will continually be asking, “Where can I put my energies that produce the most results?”

3. Preach louder with your life than you do your pulpit.

I'm pretty skeptical about how much real truth is transferred apart from a living, up-close model. So if you want to build a youth ministry that will last, prioritize living your own messages with more fervor than you ever publicly communicate them. Students will catch your attitudes, your priorities, and your responses. And over time, that haunting Scripture from Proverbs will become a reality: *“When a student is fully trained, he will be like his teacher.”*

I've been privileged to be the youth pastor for 13, 15 and 13 years respectively at different

locations. On my farewell nights, no one mentioned my sermons or brilliant program ideas. But countless students talked about quietly watching me, noticing my attitudes, and internally being shaped by the Christ I tried to model.

4. Begin preparing for your exit on the day you enter.

Sound strange? But I really think this truth is vital. If you want to create a youth ministry that has lasting impact, you have to focus on creating leadership all around you. In short, you have to “work yourself out of a job.” That’s always one of my first goals when I begin to work with a new youth ministry. So in this manner, I begin preparing for my farewell party during my very first month.

You see, common sense tells me I won’t be leading a certain youth group forever. It may be 15 or 20 years down the line; but at some point, I will probably pass the baton to someone else. If I internally wanted to build a self-centered dynasty, I will secretly be glad if the youth ministry starts to unravel when I walk away. But if my heart has been focused on creating a youth ministry that will last, I will want a core of strong, competent leaders to take the ministry to the next level. Though the old saying is trite, it still remains true: There is no success without a successor.

5. Build *yourself* to last.

Lasting youth ministries rise and fall on lasting youth leaders. Sometimes, with all the demands of teenagers and parents, we forget the importance of taking care of ourselves. Worse yet, we can sometimes feel self-centered or lazy when we “disappear” for a day or choose occasionally not to answer our cell phone.

We all know that in a family unit, one of the nicest things mom and dad can do for the children is to take care of themselves. In like manner, in a youth ministry family, one of your most unselfish leadership acts will be to take care of yourself.

Pace yourself so you can do youth ministry for the long haul. That means taking days off without guilt, focusing on some teenagers that are replenishing to you, and even turning off your cell phone. That also means doing some “self-leadership” activities like reading, youth ministry coaching, or interacting—anything to help your youth ministry skills grow to the next level. By building yourself to last, you are building a youth ministry that will do the same.

So thanks for letting me give you some of the highlights from my conversation. Remember? A youth pastor had asked me, “How do you build something that will last?” My hunch proved right. There was “history” behind his question.

“Any special reason you ask?” I said casually as we started to finish up the conversation.

Pausing, sadness flashed across his eyes again. “I guess so. Growing up, I had 11 different youth leaders. Now my old church doesn’t even have a youth ministry. Everybody’s scattered and most of us aren’t even living for the Lord now. I just don’t want to repeat the pattern. I’m a volunteer in a different city now. But I just want to help create something that is around for a long, long time.”

THERE'S MORE AVAILABLE ONLINE AT
JeanneMayo.com

