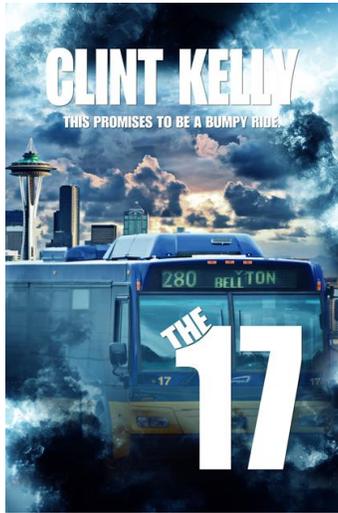


Discussion Questions



THE 17

Author: Clint Kelly

ISBN (e): 9781611168402

Imprint: Harbourlight Books

Publisher: Pelican Book Group

Pages: 194

eBook SRP: 4.99

About the Book

On the Number 17 bus, serving downtown Seattle, widower Jimmy Carter (not the former U.S. president) crashes headlong into the Almighty...

Jimmy is lost without his wife. He measures his days as the time After Ruthie. It's now the year A. R. 4. When God starts speaking to him on the 17, Jim reluctantly agrees to serve, uncertain if he's gone off the deep end or if God—Who can do most things on His own—is really so desperate as to need Jimmy to lend a hand.

When love blossoms, hurting people are restored, and lives are saved—and lost, Jimmy discovers he's linked to God in a most profound way.

TITLE: The 17

Discussion:

Question 1: Does a Christian ever "retire" from service to God?

Answer 1: Scripture tells of people of God receiving "assignments" at a very old age. Think Abraham, Noah, Moses, Daniel.

Question 2: Does God limit the ways in which he communicates with his people?

Answer 2: No. Among other things, He used a burning bush, a pillar of fire, a donkey, and a voice from heaven to give messages to his people.

Question 3: Does God ever take no for an answer?

Answer 3: The Lord works with His people and helps them mature so that their wills align with His.

Question 4: Does God treat people impartially?

Answer 4: He does. His common grace falls on all (think rain, oxygen, sunlight), the poor and the wealthy, the famous and the obscure, men, women and children. He chooses whom He will to do His will. Think shepherd boy David, King Darius, and Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Question 5: James Carter is a widower. Does his singleness and sorrow for her loss make him unfit for service to God?

Answer 5: We must distinguish between God using us anytime in our lives and our propensity to disqualify ourselves from service because we are "too old, too grief-stricken, too unskilled, or we have done our time in ministry." Here am I, Lord, send me ought to be our posture until we draw our last breath.

Question 6: What wise counsel does James Carter seek from others?

Answer 6: James has a handful of people who continue to speak into his life -- people at the gospel mission, the owner of the antiques/collectibles store, his deceased wife, Ruthie, his friend Greta, even children at Kids Safari. He bounces circumstances and challenges in life off of them for their perspective.

Question 7: Why does James Carter identify with the colorful people who ride the #17 bus?

Answer 7: They are interesting, insightful, open to a fault, and have no airs. They are his community of "real people."

Question 8: Does James Carter fall in love with Greta or is she just a good friend?

Answer 8: James misses his wife, Ruthie, and Greata gives him the female perspective and the touch of grace and gentleness he so misses. Like most men, he wants to be appreciated by the fairer sex.

Question 9: How does James grow from the experiences in the story.

Answer 9 James learns that God wants a relationship with him and that the Hound of Heaven will pursue those he loves. We are unable to hide from the fierce passion of the Almighty.

Question 10: Is the James at the end of the story changed from the James at the beginning?

Answer 10: Yes, he has learned to listen for God's voice and the importance of stepping up to whatever God has in store for His own.

