

## **Discussions Questions for *Miracle in Milan* by MaryAnn Diorio**

NOTE: These questions may be used in a variety of ways, including book-club or reading-group discussions, in Bible-study groups dealing with the topic of unforgiveness, betrayal, abandonment, broken families, divorce, child abuse, other topics related to the division among human beings.

1. Amy struggles with trust issues because of her father's betrayal and abandonment. Have you ever been betrayed and/or abandoned? How did you feel? How did you handle the consequences of betrayal? What does the Bible say about the way to handle betrayal?

2. Children derive their image of God from their earthly father. When one's earthly father has been abusive or untrustworthy, one often has difficulty trusting God. What advice would you give to a person who has difficulty trusting God?

3. When we are hurt, we often find it hard to forgive? What is forgiveness, and what is it not? What does the Bible say about forgiveness? (You may wish to read my article titled "Deck the Soul with Boughs of Forgiveness" at

<https://maryann Diorio.com/2017/12/25/deck-the-soul-with-boughs-of-forgiveness-2>

4. Ted derived his sense of worth from his father. When his father belittled him, Ted sought his sense of worth in others. Why is it dangerous to look to others for our sense of worth? Who alone can give us our sense of worth and why?

5. People-pleasing is a common challenge among people. Why is people-pleasing a trap? How can we overcome people-pleasing in order to feel good about ourselves?

6. Silvia realized too late that she'd looked for happiness in all the wrong places. We tend to do the same thing. We sometimes look for happiness in money, clothes, entertainment, trivial pleasures. Yet, all of these lead to a dead end. Where should we look for happiness? What, indeed, is happiness?

7. Having lost all hope once his guilt in the embezzlement was discovered, Giorgio committed suicide. Yet, he, like Silvia, could have repented and been saved. How can you recognize depression and despair in another person? How can you help someone suffering from depression and despair?

8. Ted knew from an early age that God had called him to be a pastor, yet Ted had not heeded that call. Instead, he'd gone his own way. Why is it important to

discover God's call on one's life? Why is it important to obey God's call on one's life as soon as one discovers it?

9. Wendell Conklin exemplifies a man who brings God's Word into the marketplace. Some people separate the sacred from the secular. Why must we bring the sacred into the secular culture in which we live? What did Jesus mean when He taught that believers are "in the world, but not of it"?

10. As Amy and Ted drew closer to God, they grew closer to each other. This is a spiritual principle of particular importance to married couples. But the principle applies in any relationship. How can you apply this principle in any challenging relationship you may be facing?

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