

A Perilous Proposal Discussion Questions

1. How universal/normal are the misunderstandings at root in Jake's personal challenges and spiritual quest to know himself, mature as a person, and grow in relation to God?
2. How would you define the essence of Jake's need at each of these points:
 - Spirituality
 - Challenges of personhood
 - Self-knowledge
 - Maturity
 - Knowledge of and growth into relationship with God?
 - What stands in the way at each point?
3. What three directions is Jake's anger pointing? Are any (or all) of these angers justified? Which and why? Have you experienced, or do you now relate to any of the three?
4. To what extent do elements in Jake's story represent things we must all come to terms with as we mature? What are those elements?
5. Do we all, in varying degrees, wrongly blame our parents for defects within ourselves? Does Jake's story ring with true resonance to the majority of us, or do you not feel you have wrongly responded to your parents in pivotal areas of your development? Would we be better off spiritually, or would it make no difference one way or the other, if we more deeply understood our parents' deep motivations for doing certain things that we have resented through the years?
6. Does Micah go too far in confronting Jake with the defects in his character, or not far enough?
7. In our permissive day where the victim mentality pervades all thought and counseling, what would a modern (including a Christian) counselor likely say to Jake? Would he/she force Jake to confront and deal with his wrong attitudes, or would he/she justify Jake in his anger? Have you been so counseled about things in your life--it's not really your fault, it's everyone else who has put this problem on you?
8. Where does personal growth and maturity originate--from God acting upon us, or within ourselves as we acknowledge, take account for, repent of, correct, and change wrong attitudes?
9. If you could cut your own soul open and examine your own "character grain" in

the areas no one sees, what would be some of the knotty areas where the grain isn't yet growing straight and true?

*discussion questions provided courtesy of christianbook.com