

GOD, GUTS, AND GALLANTRY

Questions on the Major and Politics, and You and Politics

Participants who lack a copy of the book may obtain one at: www.willjoslin.com.

Major Coker was directly and indirectly involved in political public service at three different times in his life. Let's review these accounts in the book under "Historical Background - Southern Reconstruction," in Chapter 6, at the beginning of Chapter 11 on the Welsh Neck High School, and under "Leadership" in Chapter 15.

1. In what capacities did the Major serve in politics, and why?
2. Why do you think Major Coker did not keep a sustained interest in serving in the political arena?
3. Do you think the Major would have had more of an impact for good had he dedicated his life to service in government? Why or why not?
4. Are government and politics inherently "dirty," or do you think it is possible for a person of high character to enter this field and transcend that stereotype?
5. If the Major had focused more intentionally on politics, do you think his stainless integrity would have been corrupted? Why or why not?
6. If Major Coker had chosen a career in government and politics, what do you think his destiny might have been? Why?

I think most of us would agree that many political leaders in our day tend to have integrity problems. Mark Twain remarked: "'An honest man in politics shines more there than he would elsewhere.'" We need more people of courage, great capability, and spotless principles like Major Coker to go into politics today.

Though he was not called that deeply into the government arena, the Major's lifelong example of unselfish public service should be expected for those who lead our government. We need more public servants like the Major, who never put expediency or profits above the public good.

7. How can we encourage good, honest, and capable people to go into politics today?

8. Could one of those people be you? The Major served his calling. Could serving honestly and diligently in government be yours?

Are you are a person of high ideals and unselfish purpose? Do you have clean hands and a pure heart? And are you gifted with strong leadership qualities? If so, our nation needs leaders like you to fill our vacuum of political integrity. Rather than rubbing your hands in disgust at our political landscape, I challenge for you to make a difference and consider politics.

If you want to explore running for office, yet need navigational pointers and want to make sure you are fortified to keep your integrity, there is help. Consider the courses offered by the non-partisan, non-profit Institute for Public Trust, found at <http://institutepublictrust.org/>. This institute was founded by a friend of mine who is a UNC Morehead Scholar and has political experience. And they have already successfully trained some who were subsequently elected to office.

ⁱ Daniel Kurtzman, Liveaboutdotcom, May 26, 2019 article "Mark Twain Quotes," <https://www.liveabout.com/mark-twain-quotes-2734314#:~:text=%22An%20honest%20man%20in%20politics,there%20than%20he%20would%20elsewhere.%22>