

Tudor Dixon on Faith in Politics: God's Preparation, Personal Journey & Christian Influence

Featuring Tudor Dixon

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TRANSCRIPT

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Greetings, everyone. Welcome to the Wisdom and Influence podcast here at Cornerstone University, and we have a very special guest, a wonderful friend of the university, one of our President's Fellows. Please help me to welcome Tudor Dixon.

Tudor Dixon: Thank you.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Tudor, thank you for being with us. And I'm so glad you're here with us on this podcast 'cause I've been on your podcast a number of times.

Tudor Dixon: I know. I'm— your world-famous podcast.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Like, in the—

Tudor Dixon: Thank you. I'm in the hot seat now.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Oh, I don't know about that. But thank you so much for being here and for your friendship to the university, and your wonderful conversation with our students this morning and in chapel. Thank you so much.

Tudor Dixon: Thank you. Yeah. It's been great to be here. The students are so engaged—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: —which I love.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah. They're very chatty.

Tudor Dixon: Well—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: It was great to see a long, a good line of students to see you after chapel—

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —to talk with you, pictures and so on. That was great. So thank you for being here.

Tudor Dixon: Yes.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: You know what, so many things you shared this morning, sort of I want to tee up for our conversation, but I think one of the most beautiful things, and you said it both in the morning

with our President's Fellow students when you met with the 25, 30 students and you shared your journey with them, and also you said it in chapel, and it's this beautiful part of your story that applies to all of us, really. We're on a journey—

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —and our journeys are all different, and God is at work if we let Him be at work.

Tudor Dixon: Yes.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right? Can you tell us more about that? Because sometimes I find young people in college really struggling with calling.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: What am I supposed to be doing? Right. You know? Does this matter what I've gone through? And all these things, but you really, I think, summed it up so beautifully. It's a journey. God's involved, and if we let Him, it's amazing.

Tudor Dixon: Well, I'm still trying to figure out what I'm gonna be when I grow up.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Ah.

Tudor Dixon: So I'm still on that part of the journey with them. But I do think that as you get through part of your own journey—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: —you look back and you say, "Those things that felt so hard in the moment were building me to the next moment." And that's what I kind of wanted them to understand, is that as you've seen these hardships, you can't get to the... God knows you can't do the next thing without having gone through that. And you'll look back and you'll say, "That happened because I was gonna do this."

And even the girls this morning that said to me, you know, "How did you handle being attacked?"

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: "How did you handle what that was gonna be?" And there were things that when I was younger in my career, you know, I had attacks within my career. I had attacks within friendships. And those were significant, that were meaningful to me at the time, and I thought, "Why? Why would you put me through this?"

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: There is a lesson in that, and that's what I want people to understand, especially young people to understand that as you are going, why? Help me understand — you are looking toward God and you are not looking toward the people around you—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: —'cause He's gonna take you through that.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah, the looking to God part is so critical. You said something that really resonated and I've been thinking about it ever since you said it in chapel. And I've heard... I asked my son this with some of his friends. I remembered last year I asked him, he was a senior in high school, and I said to him, our youngest, "What is it that you and your friends talk about at times?" And he said, "Well, I can't give you the details. It's all secret between friends." I said, "That's fine, but give me the high

level, the executive report," right? And he said, "You know, we really talk a lot about finding someone that loves us."

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Finding a, you know, the right person that loves us, a spouse and family and then finding something that's really meaningful to do. Right? That sense of calling and so on. And you said something this morning that I thought was beautifully put, and when David encounters Goliath, and how the army's trained a certain way, but it's not the way God trained him and prepared him. And I thought, "Wow, that's just so well put," how God prepares people in different ways, and if it's God preparing you, that's what you need. Yeah. Right? So share with us and our students and listeners about that part of that sort of calling in our lives and what you've gone through. You've had an incredible career, and so much more to do that you're gonna accomplish, I'm sure of it, in the national spotlight in Michigan, so many things in what you've done. But that preparation of God, how does it work? How has it worked in your life? What advice would you give to our students and listeners?

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. I... So especially with the race, I think, going into that, I didn't know what that was gonna be like at all, you know? I'd been in manufacturing, and then for a very short period of my life, I'd been in the media.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: But I was at a network that was just starting out, so there were a lot of, you know, mistakes being made, not mistakes... Mistakes you have to make.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Sure.

Tudor Dixon: And that's another thing you have to know. You have to make mistakes to get better.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: Right? You can't avoid mistakes your whole life. And so part of that, there were days that were just so hard. It was like, you know, camera equipment goes out, or the guest doesn't come, and you just have to be on camera and you feel kind of silly, you know? And I remember a guy at the time saying to me, "This is preparing you for something. I know this is frustrating."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: "But know that when you have been at the beginning of something and you have seen the hardest times, it's getting you ready for something you don't know you're about to do." And that didn't seem possible. Like, oh, this is out of my comfort zone. I've never been in this media world. I've always been in a business setting. And then you go into the politics world, and you're constantly having things thrown at you. You're— everything is kind of on the fly. You're trying to react quickly. You're trying to figure out how to react. And that moment, I immediately fell back on those days that were challenging when the camera's on, you're live on TV, everything kind of falls apart and you're the one holding it together. But really, it's a message of it's not you, you know? It wasn't me alone, and I was never alone on any of these journeys. It was always God with me, you know? And I always felt confident because I knew whatever happened, He's there. So as young people go through and they go, "Oh my gosh, I lost my job, and now I don't know what I'm gonna do. I don't know what that next journey is gonna be," it might be something totally different, but I will say that— also, my time in manufacturing helped me with my time in the media because there's a lot you can fall back on that nobody knows—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm-hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —about working in steel foundry. But it's not just the steel foundry, it's like the whole culture of working in industry—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —you bring to a world that has never thought about industry. You know, God had a plan throughout all of that.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: You know, one of the things that I think a lot of folks wrestle with today, Christians and non-Christians, and you — discuss, especially in the morning with the President's Fellow students of 25, 30 students who were there. So I want to shift gears and talk about this, is the belief that you can't be a Christian and be involved in politics.

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right?

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: You can't hold onto your faith with integrity and be involved with politics, right? And if you do say that you're a Christian and you're involved in politics, you're not a good Christian. Right. Right?

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. And it's a perspective that's been around for centuries and centuries—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm-hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —that politics taints, and the minute you walk into that space, you're tainted. You're tainted. There's something suspicious about it. And you've openly talked about just the corruption that exists. Yeah. Regardless whether it's Republican or Democrat, there's corruption and power and money and all those kinds of things.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: But share with us, please, you really, from what I've seen and what you've shared, were very deliberate in ensuring that you maintained your faith—

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —and your commitment to Jesus in what you were doing, but also be excellent in the political sphere. And right? That, and that's a really— so talk to us how you did those things. And to defend— because it's possible to do, I think, but tell us.

Tudor Dixon: It is. I think that, I mean, you go back to what Caesar's is Caesar's and what God's is God's, and in that, I think a lot of people—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right.

Tudor Dixon: —took that as those two worlds have to be separate. Hmm. And, like, Caesar's not of God, you know? And so I don't wanna be on the Caesar side.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah, right.

Tudor Dixon: But that's, today is a little bit different because I do think that God raises up the right people to manage government and—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —and take care of people. And every job, I mean, if you're a doctor, I sure as heck hope that my doctor is also going to go in there with a faith perspective too. Yeah. You know? So I don't think

you separate God from your career, no matter what it is. But I think in government, we have seen in just these past few months a real change of our leaders being like, "You know what? Maybe it's okay to be open to saying, 'Yeah, I am faithful. I do believe.'" Mike Johnson, the Speaker of the House, he came out, and when he was going through his election to be Speaker, people were like, "Oh, this guy can't be Speaker 'cause he's got this Christian worldview."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right. Mm-hmm.

Tudor Dixon: And that was, I think, an eye-opening moment for Christians in a way we weren't expecting. I think the media felt like they were gonna make that statement, and the world and the country was gonna go, "How horrible that he would be living his life by the Bible."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm-hmm.

Tudor Dixon: And yet Christians are still very powerful, and Christians went, "What are you saying? You say he can't have a biblical worldview?"

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: And it almost had the opposite effect of what the media expected it to be. I feel like that was kind of cracking that egg open. Because as I shared with you, when I was first running, I was told, "Don't ever mention your faith."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah, right. Right.

Tudor Dixon: You will never win over the youth. And it was just simple what you said, that I prayed about the decision, and that caused people, that individual, to be alarmed that I prayed about this decision. That was it. A whole... I mean, I'm telling you, it was like a 15-minute discussion—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Wow.

Tudor Dixon: —asking why. "Why are you running?" And then I said, "And we prayed about it," and that at the end she went back to that, "Don't ever tell anybody you prayed about something. That's a turn-off to young people."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm. Well, I'm at this university. I don't see that as a turn-off. I think a lot of young people understand that they need to be led by God.

Tudor Dixon: Hmm. That's your... That is your North Star. That's how you navigate life, you know? The word of God is a living document. And you go through there, and the beauty of that is no matter when you read the Bible, it shows you different things. It shows you what you need at that time. So the Speaker has this great resource right there trying to lead him through what he needs to do for this country, and we've seen that as we've seen this administration come in and be like, "Okay, you know what? Now we can be a little bit more defensive of what we wanna see happening in the world with peace—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: —with the hostages coming home." And then, of course, we saw Charlie assassinated, and that is... It's funny how God works in situations like that. I think we saw so many people that you look at just George Floyd in 2020 and you see the reaction to a death, a tragic death. I mean, all death is a tragedy, and you see that, and the reaction was so much anger and burning of buildings and hatred. And I think when— when Charlie was assassinated, it was such a stunning shock to the—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: —to the faith community. But for the people who watched the reaction, I think it was a bigger shock.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: Because the reaction was this overwhelming... JD Vance came out and said, "I haven't talked about God this much in my political life ever."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right.

Tudor Dixon: All of a sudden the scripture that he had recited at all of these events, sometimes I don't, I think that's the first time some of these people ever heard scripture.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah. You see a huge church service. Or the forgiveness of the wife—

Tudor Dixon: The forgiveness—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —which to me was one of the most powerful parts of that service—

Tudor Dixon: Yes.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —was the forgiveness piece.

Tudor Dixon: Yes. Which is unexpected today.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right. Right? Exactly. That is totally opposite of what we've seen from the other side. The other side says, "Don't forgive."

Tudor Dixon: The side, and I'm talking about the side, like the good and the evil, and you see this battle, and students have said to me, "If I get involved in faith, then well, I don't wanna be attacked." And I think it's interesting because if you care about your children, if you care about the future, which I hear from this younger generation all the time, you know, like, "I gotta be careful with the water and everything." You care about the future, then don't worry about Satan attacking because that's who you're worried about. If you're worried about someone attacking you for being strong in your faith, it's not a person, it's not an individual, it's not a political party.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: It is darkness. So you shine the light, you know?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm. And that, I think, has been one of the great, powerful things that we've seen with faith in politics in the past few months since we saw Charlie assassinated, and the celebration of who he was and his boldness in speaking out and speaking for the Lord. And now you have so many young people that are like, "You know what? I have a good experience. I can speak to my knowledge of scripture as well."

Tudor Dixon: I've heard this. You know, I've been in churches where conversations about either politics or cultural events of the day are very real. The pastors and leaders will talk about them. And then I've been in churches, even here in West Michigan, where that's never talked about.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm. I mean, you could be having some horrific thing happen that week in the culture, in politics, and you'd never know it from being in church.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: And it's made me ponder and wonder why. Hmm. Right? As to why... How is it that some will talk about it and engage it regardless of what side of the aisle they're on, they're engaging it. There are others who say, "We're not gonna talk about it at all."

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Then we've had, I've had here at Cornerstone my first year, I met with probably about 130 pastors that first year here at Cornerstone. And various... We'd have lunches or breakfasts and meet pastors, groups of 8 to 12. We did a number of those. And then we did a small survey of pastors that first year, and how can we reach out to you? How can we help you as a university? How can we serve your congregations? And one of the top reasons, one of the top answers was, you know, "We need a place that can help us prepare and talk about the culture—

Tudor Dixon: Hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —with our congregations. We just don't know how to. And our seminaries have not taught us how to do that. And frankly—

Tudor Dixon: Interesting.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —what's happening now, it's so beyond what seminaries could teach us. How do we do that? That's the reason why we started Wisd— one of the reasons why Wisdom Conversations at Cornerstone, you were just there a couple weeks ago—

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —and so many other things. How do we do this? So you've been in the, and you are an apprentice—

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —of public life, and I can't understand why some pastors would be hesitant to—

Tudor Dixon: They don't know how to.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right.

Tudor Dixon: So they're afraid to taint everything, or maybe they have very strong opinions. They have to already taint it so you never talk about it.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: And yet what I've discovered, I think you have in what you're doing, I know you have in being here at Cornerstone, that young people want to know.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: They want to talk about it. They're looking for it. Someone has to do it.

Tudor Dixon: Yes.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: So what advice would you give us? If pastors are listening to this, what advice would you give to them about how to engage these really serious topics?

Tudor Dixon: I think that there is a different role for a pastor than, for example, you see a, a Charlie or an influencer, a social media influencer. There's a certain amount of shock and awe—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: —that goes along with the influencer world. Hmm. And that's not a good thing. It's, that's the part that brings in the downloads and brings in the money, and it's kind of—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: And the animosity, the antagonism sometimes.

Tudor Dixon: That's right. Right. So the pastor falls into a totally different category—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —because the pastor needs to bring truth in a way that is coming in kind of like a, a loving capsule, right? Hmm. Hmm. And I know a lot of pastors would say, "Well, I don't wanna shield you," but there is a way I think all of our pastors would say that they know there's a way to deliver a truth that isn't a punch in the eye. And there are times when it has to be a punch in the eye, but I think that at this point in culture, we're trying to have deep conversations, and it doesn't have to be, you know, making fun. Like, if you look at the influencer side, it's like making fun of someone, uh, you know.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah. The guy who worked at the White House who was stealing luggage, I mean, dressed very silly, and I can say that was ridiculous.

Tudor Dixon: But this is also something that's happening in our culture that is accepting this idea that a man can be a woman and vice versa, and our pastor has been very open with the fact that this is just not possible. And that there is a time to explain the world is powerful. There's power in the world. There's power over our young people's minds, but the lies are what take you down. And it... These are not truth. This is not God's truth, but it's not truth at all. This is experimentation that they're doing on kids right now. There's not evidence that this is a good thing for children or families. You've got all these people that come out of these worlds that they say, "You know, I was in this lie. I had transitioned. I've come back, and I wish I could tell people what that really was like, but this community stops you." I think that the church is a place for kind truth, you know? Hmm. And when I say that, I don't mean gentle. Like, it is important to be firm in the truth. So when our pastor comes out and says this, he says, "We don't believe that women can be men." That doesn't mean that we don't want to talk to people who feel that way. Actually, those are the people that we want to help, you know? But if you're not reaching out to people, they're lost forever.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: That's a... I mean, it's not an easy place for pastors to be. You've got social media.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: You've got porn. You've got the transitioning, the gender ideology.

Tudor Dixon: You've got so much socialism. I mean, you've got so many things where it's like we believe that the world is a better place if there is, you know, it's a utopia. Well, okay, that doesn't exist anymore. So where's the truth? Who's gonna speak it if it doesn't come from the church?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right. The passion of the church plays a pivotal role. I want to ask you to talk with us about, next year we're celebrating America's birthday.

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: The big 250, right? And I just talked to some of our students here at the campus just last week over lunch asking them about America's birthday and a lot of the conversation in the culture, in the culture where there are clear sides on this question. We should celebrate it, we should denigrate it.

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right? And so I asked them, "What do y'all think?" And they said to me, you know, "We really need to be talking about that." We get bombarded with stuff all the time about the country, about these two things, right? And how do we have wisdom about that? And so I want to talk with us as Christians, right? And as you have been involved not just in media and business, but also in public life and politics now with your podcast, you know, as a Christian, how do we work through that? How do we encourage young people and those wrestling with the reality of the flaws—

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —but you can't deny the beauties either.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: And how do we wrestle with those two things? Because there are some in our culture, and even in our churches, who want to denigrate it all. Mm-hmm. Failed, failed— so on, and throw it all away, right? And so how do we wrestle with that? I mean, you know, we give children, I have children, we have young people here at this university. What kind of advice do we give to them and share with them about here's a biblical perspective on our country, on the nation, on what it means to be a citizen?

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right? What would you say?

Tudor Dixon: I mean, what a beautiful country it is—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: —that you can come out and say you hate the country—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —and you don't get kicked out. You know?

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. I mean, because that's not what the kids in China are seeing.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: And I guarantee you there are people that hate living there. And yet—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah, I mean, you... Pastors just rounded up in China last week or so, a number of pastors were rounded up.

Tudor Dixon: It's not free.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right. They can't speak the word of God.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. So that alone is to be celebrated, that church is free here. Churches are free to speak whatever they want to speak, and every religion is welcome in this country. And I think that that is— we are very spoiled. So spoiled in this country. I mean, you know this. You obviously have experience in the alternative. So I think it's very easy for us to go, "Well, it's not exactly how we want it." Of course it's not. God didn't promise us... He doesn't say this is where He wants us to stay forever.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: It shouldn't be. It shouldn't be so amazing that you don't want to move on, because heaven is a beautiful place, and that's our forever. But if there were any place I had to be on Earth, it would be a country that allows you to speak up, that allows you to change. You don't have a king. You can change who's in office. You can go out and vote. I can go door to door. I can tell people my story, share what I think is important to them that's important to me. I can try to win over their hearts and minds for what I think is a good cause. That's my freedom. I get to do that. If somebody in my neighborhood wants to change the bylaws, we can—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —fight about it, you know?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: We can have that conversation. You live in a country where the only reason you are saying, "I don't know if I love this country" is because someone's been allowed to tell you it might not be great. In another country, that couldn't happen. But it's also because there is a freedom and a forgiveness in Christianity, and that's the basis of which our government was grown from. And people can argue that, but it is true that if you look at a Christian country, and if people say, "Oh, it's not a Christian country," well, it was founded on the basis of Christian Judeo values. [Note: the standard term is "Judeo-Christian values"; the speaker may have reversed the order.] And if you look at those values, they are forgiving, just like what you said about—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: —Charlie's wife. They are empathetic. And some people will say, "Oh, it's toxic empathy because people are too empathetic, and they want to allow everybody to do everything." It is based in—we trust you because you will be led by God. And we allow people from any religion to be here, but if you look at countries where they have strict religions that are not religions of forgiveness, they are also not countries where women have many rights. They're not countries where alternative groups have many rights. They're countries where people are under attack. So ultimately, I think that's a great discussion for people to have. I think it's a beautiful place to have it, because one of the only countries in the world where you could say, "We're turning 250 years old. Should we spit on that, or should we celebrate?"

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Amen. Celebrate, celebrate, celebrate. Yeah. You know, another question I have for you. You've had an incredible career already, and like I said earlier, many more wonderful things to come, I'm sure, of you, Tudor. But I think of, you know, a mom, businesswoman, media, podcast, ran for governor of Michigan. I've spoken to a number of young people here at Cornerstone the last several years and before I came to Cornerstone, and I realized the apprehension that young people have—

Tudor Dixon: To fail.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm. And to risk.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. Now more than ever.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah. Just spoke to someone in the last 30 days who's already out in... a recent college graduate, already out in the market, and this individual shared with me, "I'm paralyzed." I said, "What do you mean you're paralyzed?" "Well, Dr. Moreno-Riaño, I'll tell you why. I am afraid of the risk. Everywhere I see, I see risk, and I'm not sure I want to continue with that. I'm just... There's so much uncertainty in the world, so much risk in the world." You know, what I've seen in this person, I've seen in countless others, the fear of moving forward, the fear of making decisions.

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: This paralysis. So they stay where they are and they don't do anything. It's a safe space, safe place, right? You know, when I see your journey thus far, that's not what's there.

Tudor Dixon: No. Now, now you make me— people around me would ask me to be a little safer.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: But I mean, you think about all the things that you have started and done, high-risk things.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hard things, right? Challenging things, and here you are thinking about what's the next one? Lord, show me. Show me. Show me, right? And I thought, "How do I bottle that up and give

it to a lot of students who are really sort of stagnated and paralyzed because of uncertainty?" Almost as if they've come to expect you should never have risk in life.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: You should never have that in life.

Tudor Dixon: No, but they—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: So what advice would you give?

Tudor Dixon: But let's be thankful for those people, because if they were all people that just took risks all the time, it would be a world of chaos. So I do say we are grateful for the fact that we're all different—and we all have different personalities, because if it were just a bunch of Tudors running around, who knows what would happen?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: But you know what I mean. There's a... it's such a paralysis for some.

Tudor Dixon: That's... yes, absolutely. So I do think that there is a world where also there's a big fear of embarrassment and, like, this will be permanent. And the permanent record, you know, when we were kids, I don't know if your parents ever said, "This will be on your permanent record—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: —if you do this." Like, where is this record, you know? Where does it exist?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right, right.

Tudor Dixon: And there actually really wasn't one for us, but these kids—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: It was your parents. That was a permanent record.

Tudor Dixon: That's right, yeah. But these kids, they have a permanent record—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: —because everything they do is public. You can stalk someone. You can look up all their information. You can find out everything they've done. Their history is right at your fingertips. And I think that is so much scarier today for young people to go—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: —"Well, what if I do this and then it's recorded for eternity and I can't get past it?" Because you haven't had to get past anything. You're so young. You know, you haven't had any challenges. But I would also say, I was telling the kids this morning, one of my best meetings I had was the guy who sat with me and said, "Well, when you run your next race, 'cause this one you'll lose." And I was like, "I don't like this conversation."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: You know? Why are we talking about this? But his point was—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: —there's so much that comes out of failure. And I will tell you, after another meeting after I had lost the election and I was asked to go and speak, and it was probably January, early January. So the election was in November. Just a few months later, a group asked me to come and speak, and I was talking to one of the older advisors I had on my team. And I said, "I don't know why they would want me to come and speak. I feel like I just let them all down." And he said, "Look, you'll walk in there and you'll

be able to tell them all the hard things that you went through." He said, "If you won, you would walk in there and think you were the best thing ever, and you really wouldn't be able to share anything with them."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: You can only grow through those failures.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: So when I see people who are apprehensive, if they have an idea, they need to understand that it's not really their idea. Like, that was planted from a seed from God.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: You know? If it truly is your calling, then don't be afraid of that because even if it doesn't go the direction you are expecting, there's a lesson that you're supposed to go through in that. And this is a country where you can rebuild so easily, and the faith community is so strong in that. I was just looking up how powerful is the Christian faith. And there was a study done in Louisiana, in New Orleans after Katrina hit, and it was looking at the areas where people had the highest church membership. So from 2005 to 2010, followed church membership. The areas with the highest church membership recovered—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —the fastest, and the people said that—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —they felt always safe. No matter what, they had a place to go. It was like a home base, you know? We knew there'd be toilet paper. We knew there'd be shelter. We knew there would be coffee. We knew we were good, 'cause our home base was church. And then more entrepreneurs bloomed out of that area because those people said—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —"We have to rebuild. We trust you to rebuild." And they started to come around each other. So really, if you are paralyzed, then surround yourself with your faith family. That's how you will be strong through it.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: You know, one of the things that... You're involved in the media world—

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —a lot, and, you know, I think almost more than politics.

Tudor Dixon: That's a tough world, too.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah. Right?

Tudor Dixon: It is.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: And so, you know, one of the things that I think all of us are wrestling with with media, regardless of where it's coming from, is having the discernment to understand and to discern what is true and what's false.

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right? Yes. With wisdom, because there are so many sources of information, so many spins, so many coming our way, I mean, from all these sectors. And then you add social media to that and alternative—

Tudor Dixon: And AI—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —sources of information. AI, right? I was watching the other day a video, and I sent it to my son. I said, "Have you seen this?"

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: He said, "It's AI-generated, Dad." I'm like, "What do you mean?" He said, "I can tell. Look." And I never saw it. It looked like a real video to me.

Tudor Dixon: I know.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: He said, "It's not real, Dad. Here's how I can tell." So he knew. I was grateful that he knew. I didn't, but he could tell, right? But that's a real challenge. You're in the media space in some significant ways. How have you learned to discern and grow your discernment with media? Because we have to have it, we have to utilize it wisely, but how do we do that?

Tudor Dixon: You make a few mistakes, so—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —that is, you can't let those mistakes get you down, because that's how I learned. I repost something and everybody attacks you and goes, "Oh, you idiot." "That's not true." I mean, it's true. You know? Yeah. It's this simple... And that's embarrassing, but it's as simple as that, you know? You do something, and then you go, "Oh, well, I can't just trust." You know, I have to be— when I see something that seems, oh, this is horrible, I should get multiple sources—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —that are actually—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm-hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —saying the same thing. But the AI thing is very scary, because, I mean, it looks like the person, it seems like it's happening. You know, my mom sent me something the other day. I'm like, "Mom, this bear did not lick this baby's face and get scared away by a cat." You know, this is not—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah, that's right.

Tudor Dixon: —this is not real.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: By the way, that was not the video I sent to my son. Okay?

Tudor Dixon: By the way, she's gonna kill me. But it does—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: —it all seems so real, and I believe that that's mentioned in the Bible, that you won't be able to tell what's real and fake and what's not real, and that is really scary to me.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah. When I see what they're capable of doing with AI, making it look like someone says something, and, you know, two politicians are in a debate, and then they actually start fist fighting, you're like, "What?" You know?

Tudor Dixon: Yeah, right. "This is not true."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Um, y—

Tudor Dixon: It is a matter of also not staying in one space.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: You know, I have a lot of people that stay in one social media, Twitter or whatever we call it, X, or Reddit, and you're getting two really different messages there. Leave that. Once you see something that harms your soul in some way and you go, "Oh my gosh, I'm so fired up about..." Because those places are just to fire you up.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm-hmm.

Tudor Dixon: Once you become fired up, then leave that space.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: Do research. In the past, you didn't just— I mean, there was no social media, but you didn't just go, "Oh, I can only cite one story." I mean, these are university students. You require them to cite more than once, right?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah. Many times, yes.

Tudor Dixon: So use that knowledge that you can't trust the first thing. You have to have multiple viewpoints saying one thing, and you really figure it out quite quickly once you've posted something that embarrasses you.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: You know, I want to shift and talk about politics. I think about midterm elections coming. I think about the state of Michigan. I'm not a Michigander. I'm brand new still. My five years here, still learning a lot, but just watching how things have played out in the last four or five years. But then I'm also watching something that I think everyone's paying attention, which is the New York City mayoral race.

Tudor Dixon: Oh, yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right? And not just how it's playing out there, but the sort of similar races or possibilities in other cities—

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —where all of a sudden, socialism or communism or whatever we want to call it, or creeping communism, which is socialism in many ways, is somehow a viable option for people.

Tudor Dixon: Oh, I don't know if you've heard, it's never been done right.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah, right, right. No, I mean, it's... I'll never forget my very first class in graduate school was a class on Karl Marx and communism, and the professor was a communist. And he said, "Capitalists never gave us a chance." This is what he would say, right?

Tudor Dixon: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: So it was... I remember thinking, you know, and laughing at that. But having said that, all of a sudden, it's a viable option for people in certain cities, right? And I sense that even here in parts of Michigan, in some cities, it's beginning to be an attractive option. What has happened—

Tudor Dixon: Well, think—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —from your perspective...

Tudor Dixon: Karl Marx is kind of like a lot of these college students. He was like a perpetual student. His parents were not uber wealthy, but they were wealthy enough that he could go out and be a perpetual student, you know? So he came up with a bunch of theories. He was not a worker, but he looked at the workers and said, "Oh, they must not be happy." He had no idea. He didn't talk to them. He just assumed. He went and looked at it and he said, "This is not a good society." Now suddenly people can get paid for their work. So times start to change—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: —during Karl Marx's life, and industrialism takes off, and then people get paid to be working in industry instead of, you know, working at home. And the people earning the wage are going, "Oh, we can actually make a wage now. We can start to afford things. Our life is changing." But Karl Marx looked at the owners of those companies and said, "Their life is changing faster, and that's not fair." So he didn't care that the worker was saying, "I've always been a different class—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —but now I can choose my class. I can actually get a job and I can increase my own personal wealth." He didn't look at that. He said, "They're not being treated fairly." He got a bunch of other people who are also not workers, and they said, "These people aren't treated fairly." Then they infiltrated the workers. Then they got them to go, "Oh my gosh, should we be unhappy?" You know? This was working. It works. We see it in the United States. Capitalism works. The reason it works is because that big business owner who you think is just very wealthy— has provided income for all those workers who at that time had never had income before. They have some kind of freedom. Then you have somebody like that here in the United States, Jeff Bezos. Oh, he should give us all of his money, but how many Amazon warehouses do we have?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Sure.

Tudor Dixon: Look, he's not my favorite guy, but he's a job creator. You cannot lie.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: He's creating... He's going to space. He's—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: And our packages are delivered same day sometimes.

Tudor Dixon: I know. It's unbelievable. I don't love it because I'm—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Well, they add significant value, but what's become so attractive? That's why I'm puzzled. I mean, I have a friend who lives in New York City, and they're very attracted to the socialist piece. And I said, "Have you seen what could happen to your city?"

Tudor Dixon: And I think that that is where the malicious empathy comes into—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —effect. And so when you hear people talking about empathy being dangerous, I think it is because people can play on your empathy and tell you, "This is really bad. You have the power to change this, and it could be fair for everyone." They're not telling you the full story.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: You know, they don't understand that it can't actually be that way. For some reason, they don't look back at history books. If it could be that way, humankind does, I think, always want—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —to do the good thing. There would be enough people that would have succeeded at socialism. It cannot be that way. Ultimately, everyone suffers. But when have they seen that in our lifetime?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: They haven't. You know, America is very spoiled. It's the, "Good times make weak men, weak men make bad times, bad times make strong men." We are just getting off of strong men.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: Now we have weak men. They have been very spoiled. They are trying to raise up a bad system that will create bad times. It's an age-old theory. Do we have to go through this? I hope the whole country doesn't. But is it sad to see that we have the economic center of the world that will now go into a socialist experiment? I'm glad we have term limits.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: And your point then is that they're playing off certain things and manipulating and not sharing the whole story. That, and that's what I've discovered as well when I speak to my friend there and others, that they're not aware of all the consequences—

Tudor Dixon: No.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —of all that's being done. Certain things sound so amazing, so good, it must be good, but no thought about that. And the alarm, and this is why even here at Cornerstone University in our School of Business, we're taking this very seriously because we know that good education, thoughtful education about economics and free markets, free enterprise, makes a huge difference.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. The data and the information can't lie.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah. But so it's only a part of the story that's being told.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. Absolutely.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: So talk to us about the state of Michigan because, you know, I have a colleague who just moved here from another state in the Union, and said to me, and I did not know this, he said, "Do you know, there are a lot of dormant evangelicals in Michigan?" I said, "What do you mean dormant evangelicals?" He said, "Michigan was the second place where the Jesus revolution took off."

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: "It happened in California, that's the first place, and then it happened here in West Michigan. This is why you have all the publishing houses here and all the Christians here." He said, "But these evangelicals have gone dormant for a long, long time."

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: That's what he said to me, and I thought, "Hmm." And then I looked at the political scene, and I thought, "Maybe he's right," because there are certain issues on the ballot—

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —that I thought to myself, with the number of churches we have here and Christians and Christian publishing houses, it should have never gone in that direction, so something happened. Either people didn't show up, didn't care, didn't think they should. In the last three or four years, you know it better than I do.

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: So help me, help us to think about the future of Michigan and evangelicals in these real very serious issues. Right to life and abortion, that's one of them, right? The sanctity of marriage, the transgender piece. There are things that are biblical and very serious things that if we don't pay attention to could really hurt the state and hurt our communities. So give us a sense of where we're headed here.

Tudor Dixon: Well, I think as you've seen church membership decline, you've seen that happen. I think it's the next generation that has said, "You know, we don't need the church. We can do this on our own." And just in the last few years, that has changed, that you're seeing young men go back to church.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right.

Tudor Dixon: Which, you know, I think that if we could ask God to do one thing, it would probably be return. If we had to return them at different times, return the men first and let them lead the women. But right now, men are very lonely.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: And they feel like there's not a woman out there for them because women have been taught the lie that you can't rely on someone else. You can't have a partner in life. You have to be very independent. Or you even need one.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right. Right, right.

Tudor Dixon: I mean, that's what you talked about at the Wisdom Conversation. I thought that was fantastic when the woman who was speaking about feminism said, "This has been a lie to women."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: "You've taken away what they naturally desire." So I do think that West Michigan had been this place where we were really on fire for the Lord. And then when I came, I came to West Michigan 20 years ago, and we joined a church, and the church was kind of like a, "We don't talk about anything." Like, if you have something, a problem... And I didn't really realize this was happening, and then a pastor came to our church that was from out of state, and I said to his wife, "You ever notice that, like, you don't talk about anything negative ever? Like, if you're struggling with something?" She said, "It's only here." And I don't know if that's a local—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —cultural thing, but I've seen—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: —pastors that are trying to break that.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: And I think that is... You can get into a situation where it's like, oh, we don't want controversy, so we're just gonna keep all of the negative things out of here. But the church is for a place... The church is where all the sick people come, right?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm. Mm-hmm. Like, this is the area—

Tudor Dixon: —where you get well.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: You don't come here when you're perfect. You can't walk in the door perfect. That's not how church works. You don't walk in the door and go, "Oh, I'm broken. None of these people look like me. I've got to run the other direction." That would be a disaster. We wouldn't have any Christians, you know? And if people are pretending that, which I think for a long time they were pretending that. I mean, you saw that movie that they came out with, *Holland*, where the ad for the movie is like, "I'm from Holland, Michigan."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: I saw that movie and I thought, "Wow." I mean, it made me pause, right?

Tudor Dixon: Yes.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: I thought someone didn't have a good experience in Holland.

Tudor Dixon: Right. That's why they made this movie, right?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: I know. I know. I know that's what I... I couldn't watch it all. I could only watch the first part of it. I was like, "This is creepy."

Tudor Dixon: Yeah, it is creepy.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: It was creepy.

Tudor Dixon: But that's the impression, is that everybody—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: —has to have this perfect life. Well, that's not the church.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: The church is filled with broken people. So I do think that that's changing.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: But I see the battle. It's not changing. It's changing if we want it to change, but I see the battle, and we were talking about it at lunch, that there are forces that are against anybody that is Christian or conservative. Yeah. I mean, even in Grand Haven, there's a restaurant right now that says, "If you are a MAGA supporter, you're not welcome in our restaurant." They put a posting saying, "Don't come."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: And I think, wow, that's so— opposite of what the Christian attitude is, is like, "If you don't agree with my faith, then welcome. Come and learn. Come and sit with me. If you aren't perfect, come to the church, sit down. We have a book for you. We want to share it."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm-hmm.

Tudor Dixon: You know? I think that that's important that we remember that's who we are, and we're always inviting people.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah, that, and you mentioned it a number of times. And you know, one of the things I find interesting is that democracy has so many tensions pulling it apart, right? And you always hear individuals in government or public sphere speaking about the strength of our democracy or America is our diversity.

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: That's a beautiful thing, as long as it's working.

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: And as long as you're able to actually sit down and have conversations.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right? Real conversations. Otherwise, it becomes a tension that pulls it apart.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: And so you mentioned that restaurant. You know, we talked about this at Wisdom Conversations, and you were there, but with others. There's a whole new movement now where individuals see, whether it's institutions or family or relationships, through the lens of my personal identity. And if you don't serve my identity—

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —you're done. I don't want you here.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Whether it's a mom or a dad or siblings or other extended family members or a church or friends, you are an agent of me.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right? And if you don't... You're not my right agent for my identity, I don't want you. I don't need you, right? And the destructiveness in families, in churches, in organizations, in restaurants—

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —the thought that if you're that striped American, we don't serve you food. We don't want—

Tudor Dixon: Right.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —right? How do we break through that? You had a wonderful example this morning of sitting with a number of Kamala Harris supporters.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Maybe you can share that with our listeners, which I thought was such a powerful story of how you did that to try to break through some of those things.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah, we were at an event. Fox came out to Muskegon. They were having a breakfast with friends. There were a bunch of Harris supporters there. This was during the election, and a bunch of Harris supporters there kind of hooting and hollering, you know, making their voices heard.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Sure.

Tudor Dixon: And then afterward I said, "I think I'm gonna go talk to them." And my team was like, "Why would you do that?" You know? I'm like, "I just want to see what we talk about, you know?" So I went and sat down, and it was great because they told me stories from their perspective as to why they believe certain things, and I could see that, you know? And I'm like, "Okay, that's not my life story. That's not my experience. I'm glad I know that experience."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Sure.

Tudor Dixon: "I'm glad I have a different perspective on that. Let me tell you my experience. Let me share what I think." And we talked for, like, 45 minutes. At the end, the one woman looked at me. She said, "Well, what's your name?" And I was like, "Uh, it's Tudor." And she goes, "Well, not that Tudor. No, that's not your name." I said, "Oh, yeah. That's why I didn't lead with my name. Yeah, I am— that's who I am." And her jaw just hit the table, and she looked at me. She very seriously said, "I hated you. I hated you. And you turned out to be pretty normal."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Wow.

Tudor Dixon: And I thought in that moment, I'm like, that is such a powerful statement because too many times we hate each other. We haven't even met. We haven't given each other a chance, and instead of trying to change my mind, if she had known who I was, instead of sitting with me like she did so graciously and tried to change my mind and gave me her perspective and let me into her world, if she had known who I was, she would never have done that.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm. But it really, I mean, I learned something. I'm grateful to her still to this day that she took that dive.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: That is such a powerful story, which I think so often as we lead first with our faith — I'm a Christian — that shuts doors many times.

Tudor Dixon: Yes.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right? Mm-hmm. Oh, you know, you don't lead with your name. You knew why. In the public sphere, we lead with other things. And then I'm mindful of, you know, I've shared this story oftentimes, my wife loves to share the gospel with people on the plane when she travels. She does it often. And she said, I'll never forget this because it reminded me of that story and something else you shared about the seeds that we plant—

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —in conversations, and how seeds bring fruit. It takes time, but seeds are planted. And she shared the gospel with someone on a plane one time, and he turned out to be a Christian, and then he said to my wife, he said, "Thank you for sharing with me." Then he said this: "I am a man in whom 1,000 seeds were planted before I came to faith."

Tudor Dixon: Oh. 1,000 seeds is how he put it. That's an incredible story.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right? And I've never forgotten that story. It made me pause. To your point, even now, the importance of figuring out a way to enter conversations—

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —because seeds are planted, and you just don't know. And God brings people at different times to water them, and someone reaps the fruit—

Tudor Dixon: Yes.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —but the seed's been planted. So that story you shared was really powerful. I thought, "Wow, you went to them—

Tudor Dixon: Mm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —and you had the discernment to not lead with the name." Yeah. And then here it is, right? And I just thought to myself, that's a really sound piece of advice. How do we enter a conversation without baring our initials and credentials right up front?

Tudor Dixon: That's what one of the students asked this morning.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: Like, how do we—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah.

Tudor Dixon: —share the gospel with people? How do we share our worldview, our biblical worldview, without getting shunned, you know, without getting kicked out? And I said, "You don't always lead with the Bible, 'cause sometimes that's scary. Sometimes it's easier for someone to see your inner joy, and then you start to say, 'Hey, so I go to church.'" You know, you figure out how to work that into the conversation. If you start the conversation with someone who's hesitant and say, "You need to be reading this." "Ugh, I don't want—I don't want homework. I don't want you to—"

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Homework, yeah. Give me a job. Right, right. You know? Right. It's like, this is actually free. You can just—

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —come to this well and drink.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. And you can feel the same way.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Yeah. How do you show people?

Tudor Dixon: Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: You know, I see... We talked about the fear of uncertainty and risk. The fear of rejection is real. But one of the things that I've seen just in the last four or five years is hearing your speeches and conversations in the very intense environment you were in in '21 and '22, right? And the importance of humility not as a weakness, because oftentimes people see it as a weakness, and in the ancient world it was always seen as a weakness. You can't be humble as a leader.

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm. Yeah.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: You have to be a conquering hero. You have to be very triumphalist about things. But then the importance of humility is not just a virtue, but a strength.

Tudor Dixon: Mm-hmm.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Right? So talk to us about that in your work, in your public life, in your presentations, your speeches, in some very intense campaign moments, right, in the media, that importance of humility as a source of strength and stability.

Tudor Dixon: Yeah. Well, I found that when you are open and you're truthful about who you are, and you're truthful about your downfalls, too, that's very humbling when you come out—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm.

Tudor Dixon: —and you're like, "Okay, I screwed this up. I had this problem." But it's also, it draws people to you as well, because they see that you're willing to say, "I... It's not me. I'm not able to do this. I can't do this in my own power." And I think those times have changed, and maybe it's easier for a woman, too, to say, "There's something bigger that has surrounded me." But that taking yourself out of the equation is also hard, especially in this business, because you are the product, right?

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm-hmm.

Tudor Dixon: I've been in sales before. It wasn't selling me. It was selling a product. In the case of politics, you are the product and you have to sell yourself constantly. That can get in your head, you know? And I think I shared with you one of the first conversations that I had when I was thinking of running was with a politician here in Michigan, and as I walked out the door, he said, "Don't let it seduce you."

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: And I remember going, "I have no idea what he means by that." Today, I have seen enough—

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: You've seen enough.

Tudor Dixon: —that I've seen people who it's about them, it's the cause has been lost.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: And that to me is why it is so important to constantly be in conversation with God.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Hmm.

Tudor Dixon: What is the plan? Is this me? Is this you? Is this us together? What am I supposed to be doing? If you are constantly questioning if He is on board with you, it will keep you from thinking you are doing this in your own power.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: Mm-hmm. Tudor, thank you for all—

Tudor Dixon: Yes.

Gerson Moreno-Riaño: —you have done and do and will do, and thank you for being a part of Cornerstone University. I'm so grateful you're here. Thank you. And I can share that on behalf of our entire staff and team and our students who love what you shared this morning. Thank you for all you do, and the Lord continue to bless you, and thank you for being on our podcast.

Tudor Dixon: Thank you. Thank you for having me. It's been a great day. Thank you.

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