Biodun Jaiyesimi

Finding my Calling (50 secs)

I realise what I enjoy doing, what I like doing, is to assist friends, less fortunate friends. It gives me a lot of satisfaction. Then when I pray, I tell God, Father, make me a channel of blessing, to put a smile on people's faces.

So, when I see my classmates or old mates that are not doing well, I try as much as possible to help. Even if at times when I don't have, I go out of my way to find something for them, to solve people's problem basically. At times it's not financial, at times it could be, oh, they have this problem.

I derive a lot of satisfaction in that and just put a smile on people's faces, yeah. I notice that that is something I can't just let go. Even when those you've done it to in the past have paid you back with evil, you don't let it disturb you, but you realise it's something in you that you just like doing.

Chasing the Sun (58 secs)

And where do you see your future going when you look towards the next 20 years? Do you think you'll stay in Essex? Do you think you'll move around?

I'm not sure…

Where does home, home feel?

Home is where you are happy. Right now, UK is home.

I mean, I don't call Nigeria home because I've been here more than half of my life. I mean, I left Nigeria when I was 23. I'd already gone back there to stay.

I'm 56 now. So basically, I've been here for 33 years. So, this is home.

Now, do I like the cold? I don't think so. So, when I go on holidays to the likes of Spain, Portugal, when I go to Florida, I'm like, gosh, I wish. So, I see myself in the next five, ten years to sort of chase the sun around.

Whether it be three months in Florida, three months in Dubai, a month in Nigeria and the remaining four or five months in the UK.

O5BM Participation (1 min 36)

The only group I belong to is O5BM, because I'm a recluse, I don't go out, I don't go out at all, I'll fall into that class with a recluse, I just like my own space, I just like my own company, so I rarely go out.

So O5BM, Enitan, he's a good friend of mine, fantastic guy, and I didn't have a choice to tap into, and the good things make us to play table tennis, link with one another, to socialise, meet up, socialise, and the table tennis, it has a benefit on the overall health, so that all these old age diseases will start setting in.

So actually, like the concepts of O5BM, he's doing a very good job, and Eni doing a very good job, so I'm proud to be part of it, but other activities, because I'm a recluse, I don't go out, it would take forever for me to, when I go, I get to meet everybody and speak to them, yeah.

And because the timing falls with my own trading times, because I only trade the US market, and the US market trade starts at 2.30 and ends at 9, so when I'm there, I'm always cautious that I have to go at 9, I have to make sure I close my trades at 9, so it's always, but right now, I'm going to get more of…, I'm going to be more involved now, I think I need to change my trading patterns and to make sure that, okay, Tuesdays now, I'll make sure, every Tuesday, I'll make sure I'm definitely going to be involved.

Mentor story (2 mins 14)

I was born in a town called Ijebu Igbo in Nigeria, Ogun state in Nigeria. Ijebu Igbo is sort of a remote part of the state, mainly what I would call more of the local people of the state lives there. That was where my dad and my mum was born so that was eventually that was where I was given birth to and the population of Ijebu Igbo will be less than a million people, less than a million.

Most of them are uneducated in the days, in my parents' days but right now education has kicked in. I have some universities, about two universities in the town. The citizens of Ijebu Igbo are known for, or the citizens that are residents of Ijebu Igbo are known for their business
acumen. Once you step from Ijebu Igbo they do a lot of business acumen.

In my family, oh I had some mentors in my family when I was growing up. I had an uncle who was a young, dynamic, brilliant man.

At the age of twenty-one he got married, at the age of twenty-three he made his first million. That was when Niara was at value, did extremely well, very dynamic man and he was my mentor in the family. And because a lot of my people in my family are academicians, we had about eight professors, and I noticed that most of the professors, I don't mean this in a bad way, they're not well to do financially because some of my uncles are professors, we had about eight professors in my family but the young ones, like the one I said, my mentor that went into business did extremely well. So while I was clever in school I knew right from then that you know what, I'm not going to go into academics like my other uncles, I'm going to go into the business world because my dad was of a low means, he wasn't particularly wealthy, it was average income and I'd rather have a good life so I decided not to go into academic per se, as in to be a lecturer or professor like the other uncles of mine.

Education choices (2 mins 14)

When I was finishing secondary school, I thought I was going to do piloting. Piloting was what I wanted to do. When I learned about the costs, the fees to pay for piloting, I knew my family can't afford it because my family, as I said, was average means.

So I decided… my dad completed what he called my 'JAMB' form. 'JAMB' then is something you do, an exam you do in those days to go into the university. He just put in medicine for me to study medicine because he felt I'll get the grades anyway.

So I was thinking for medicine in my class five, we call it class five, which is like the year 12 year before you go to A-levels. So from there, you could go straight to university. You don't have to do A-levels in our days.

So I was thinking for medicine, but I couldn't, I didn't go because I have a phobia for blood. I'm hemophobic, basically. And so my dad's senior brother convinced him to just let me do what's called the Lower Sixth.

So from there, I decided to apply for architecture. So I did architecture in university for my BSc for five years. And I never practiced with it because I knew it wasn't just for me. I was more of a businessperson.

The minute I finished architecture in class five, in the fifth year. I knew, because I said I'm from very humble and I wouldn't use the word poor, but very humble beginning, humble background. I knew I had to leave the country. So I was focused on travelling abroad.

So I went and got my visa. And my wife, who is late now, she died four years ago, we eloped from Nigeria because her dad were wealthy, the parents were wealthy.

While we liked each other, we loved each other. The parents wouldn't allow us to date because it was a different social class because her parents are wealthy. My parents were of low means, but we loved each other.

So we knew that the only way was to just elope. So we eloped from Nigeria to UK, 1991, which is when I got in here, then deviated into chartered accountancy and then had my master's in business administration. And then the rest is history.

Career (1 min 43)

There's something called the flexi hours, flexi job, where it means you want to do your 40 hours, that's it for the week. So then that job I used to do, finish on Thursday and I've done my 40 hours, then I fly to Nigeria Thursday night, then I used to sell what I call the mobile phones. The mobile phones just came to me 1991, 1991, 1992, 1993.

So I used to buy about ten of them, I think they are £400 each for £4,000 in here, then I go and sell them in Nigeria for a £1,000 each. So I make £6,000 on every ten I take there. So I knew fully well that I'm making £6,000 on a trip to Nigeria in a week and my yearly salary then was £12,000 per annum.

I knew this was just for me to break into the system, know how things work. So really I got a call August 14, 1993, that my dad passed, that was the last time I became employed. Since then I've not been employed with anybody. I worked for myself as a businessman.

So I did properties, trading, what have you, since then. So I've never been like a nine to five person employed for anybody.

For example, buying and selling the phones was the first one I started with and buying and selling of properties was another one I did and facilitation. Facilitation being the middle guy, somebody wants something, you collect them, you collect a fee. Then I went into trading, which is my specialty, that's what I actually specialise in.

What does that mean then? To the financial trade stock market. *On the stock market?* Stock market, yeah. So that's what I eventually, that's what I'll say, I'm what you call a typical derivatives trader. I'm a hedge fund guy.