



“For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”- 1 Timothy 4:8

READY...SET...!

While the weather finally got the better of us on Tuesday, there was no way it was gonna stop us on Thursday! The field was surprisingly dry given all the recent rain, and it was encouraging to see both players and coaches adapt to their modified practice environment. Safe to say, a good time was had by all, and everyone left in good spirits as we look forward to the first round of games next week.

DEVOTIONAL THEME: HUMILITY – “He must become greater; I must become less.” (John 3:30)

Pride has been the undoing of many great leaders, and is a character flaw which must be overcome for those seeking to imitate the life of Christ. It most often breeds overconfidence and prevents us from calling out for our Savior. As Jesus said in Mark 2:17 *“It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”* When we allow pride to rule our lives, we tend to push Christ to the side...because, after all, we aren’t sick!

The beauty of the Bible is that it never glosses over the failures and shortcomings of men and women who lived in real time, just as we do today. Throughout Scripture, we find examples of leaders – men/women of influence – who were puffed up with an inflated ego – strutting around full of self-importance. Think of the Pharisee in Luke 18:11 who prayed about himself, *“God, I thank you that I am not like other men – robbers, evildoers, adulterers – or even like this tax collector. I fast twice per week, and give a tenth of all I get.”* Think too, of King Herod who, because he did not give praise to God after delivering a public address, was struck down by the Lord, eaten by worms and died. (Acts 12:23). And consider the fate of King Uzziah, crowned King of Judah at age 16, who allowed his great success to create a prideful attitude, leading to leprosy and his eventual downfall (2 Chronicles 26).

Humility is not thinking less of yourself, it's thinking of yourself less

One man who stands out for his true humility was John the Baptist. Though he had many followers and even baptized the Lord Jesus Christ, John knew his role. He was to prepare the way for the Messiah, considering himself not even worthy of untying the thongs of Jesus’ sandals (John 1:27). John demonstrated an incredible willingness to decrease in importance once Jesus – “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” – appeared on the scene (John 1:29). He humbly accepted the task of announcing the coming of the Savior – always pointing to Jesus and never to himself.

The big question is...What are the signs of a prideful heart? Being aware of those areas us to invite the Lord to change us from the inside out. So let’s take an inventory to see how we measure up. Here are a few areas in our lives which suggest pride may be seeping in • You have a feeling of entitlement • You have a harsh spirit • You already assume you know something when someone is teaching • You see yourself as too good for certain tasks • You find it hard to ask for help • You talk about yourself a lot (you love the limelight) • You are consistently critical • You have a constant need for attention and affirmation • You are unable to receive constructive criticism • You are unwilling to submit to authority • You are always name dropping!



How did you do? Are you guilty of concluding, “I’m the least prideful person I know?!”

Looking forward to seeing you next week!

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Sports Quest:
“Sharing biblical truth to reach, teach & encourage next generation leaders through soccer”

“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” - Philippians 4:13