



“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

WHEN YOU WANT THE GROUND TO SWALLOW YOU UP – A COACH’S PERSPECTIVE!

Coaching when performances and results are going your way is always great fun and very rewarding. But being on the sidelines when your team is outplayed, outclassed, overwhelmed or underachieving is another story. That’s when the “bigger picture” has to loom large in your mind and we must shift our focus to the truly important – but often less noticeable – measures of success. Did we give 100% effort? Were we respectful? Did we encourage one another? Will we be remembered for all the right reasons by our opponents, match officials, teammates and parents? Did we learn from the experience? We (coaches) may not always show it, but we WANT TO WIN as much as the players (and parents)! But when the final ball is kicked, we have no greater joy than to reflect on the goodness of God – His lavish grace – and His constant molding of our character through both the triumphs and the trials encountered in the game we love!



DEVOTIONAL THEME: TRUST – “Trust is earned when actions meet words” (Chris Butler)

In the first verse of chapter 14 of John’s Gospel, we read the following words of Jesus, spoken to His disciples on the night of His betrayal, “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me.” In the midst of the approaching storm, Jesus knew His closest companions would need some reassurance; that doubt, fear, insecurity – perhaps even disillusionment and disappointment would enter their hearts as they witnessed their “supposed” long awaited Messiah suffer a gruesome death on a cruel, rugged Roman cross. In spite of Jesus’ teachings, miracles and promises, the disciples needed to trust once more that what Jesus said would happen, would indeed, happen. Today, as we look back on His words, and as we delight in His resurrection and ascension, we can be thankful that Jesus once again “came through” and we can be confident that He’ll continue to fulfill His plan for our lives and for His people. In chapter 14 alone, we can bask in the following truths expressed by Jesus:



1. He is preparing a heavenly home for every believer (14:2)
2. He will come back so that we may spend eternity with Him (14:3)
3. He will provide the Holy Spirit to indwell us forever (14:15-17)
4. He will bring peace and courage to the heart of the believer (14:27)

PERSONAL REFLECTION – How are you (and I) doing?

How trustworthy are we? Is our word our bond? Do we ever find ourselves telling half-truths or exaggerating the truth? Do we follow through on commitments and can we be relied upon no matter what? Are we hypocrites – saying one thing but acting quite differently? At some point, we’ve all likely said, “If you need anything, let me know.” But do we really mean it, or are we merely paying lip service to the notion of helping others? Remember, just like our reputation, trust takes years to build, seconds to break and forever to repair. Scripture tells us in James 5:12 that we should let our “yes” be yes and our “no” be no. In other words, our lips should speak truth, and our reputation should be one of trustworthiness, transparency and honesty.



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