



SEASON TRAINING – WEEK 12

Hard to imagine, but we’re now just one week away from “calling it a day” with HCYA Hurricanes season training for the 2020/21 season! Next up is POST SEASON (details to follow). As we’ve reminded the players over and over again, time flies by so quickly. The challenge has always been to enjoy their experience as a Hurricane, and in particular, embrace the culture of the program. Our prayer is that each player feels valued, respected and part of something bigger than themselves, and that in the weeks, months and years to come, they’ll be sharing some of the lessons they’ve picked up from their coaches. Here’s a quick review of the devotional themes this week for future reference...

TUESDAY – THE HEART OF JESUS

In the four gospel accounts of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, there’s only one place where Jesus tells us about His own heart. In Matthew 11:28-30 He says that He is “gentle and humble in heart”. He’s not a kill-joy or iron-fisted, impersonal God. He is filled with kindness and compassion, borne out of meekness (but not weakness!). Sometimes we may feel unworthy or unqualified to come to Jesus. Or perhaps we convince ourselves that we don’t need a Savior – that our good works will be “good enough” to gain us access to His heaven. Sadly, both viewpoints are mistaken. On the one hand, you don’t need to unburden or collect yourself and then come to Jesus. Your very burden is what qualifies you to come. And on the other, all our righteous acts are like filthy rags, according to Isaiah 64:6. Our perspective of Jesus must not be skewed. He is King of Kings and Lord of Lords. He is the Maker of heaven and earth. He is all powerful, and will one day crush the serpent’s head. But He is also tender, gentle and humble, and loves nothing more than for His children to come to Him whether in a valley of sin or on a peak of godliness. He is waiting...Will you come? Will you run to Him again and again and again...? (Challenge and encouragement: Listen to “Run to the Father” song by Cody Carnes)



“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

(Matthew 11:28-30)

THURSDAY – LOVING OTHERS

It’s only natural to gravitate towards those who look at life through the same lens as ourselves. Those with the same social status, same aspirations, same background. But what about the ones who don’t measure up to our standards or expectations? The anti-social, the introvert (or the extrovert), the ball-hog in soccer or the arrogant in society. What is our response to those who might come against us because of our convictions and who treat us with disrespect and suspicion? We only have to look at Jesus for the answer. We are to LOVE them! Jesus didn’t shun the sinner. He ate with them! He didn’t scold Peter for his denial, He restored him. Rather than moving away from the leper, Jesus moved towards him, going so far as to touch the untouchable of society. Yes, it’s a tough assignment. To love others – unconditionally. But, if we want to truly reflect the heartbeat of the Lord, love is not an option. It is a command. How are you doing? And yes...How am I doing? Let’s lean into Jesus and allow Him to give us a passion for people – to see them with Jesus eyes – and to love them regardless of what we may or may not receive in return.



“We love because he first loved us” (1 John 4:19)

Looking forward seeing everyone next week!

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 “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)