



May 1, 2017

Believe!

“Then He said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and observe My hands. Reach out your hand and put it into My side. Don’t be an unbeliever, but a believer.” -- John 20:27

It has been said that “seeing is believing.” In John 20 we read that Jesus appears to the disciples to offer them peace and the Holy Spirit (vv. 21-22). John then writes that Thomas, one of the twelve disciples, was not present when Jesus had come to visit (v. 24). The disciples let Thomas know that they had seen the Lord (v.25), yet Thomas says; *“If I don’t see the mark of the nails in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will never believe!”* (v. 25b).

How about you? Do you believe? Do you believe when someone tells you something that on the face just doesn’t seem possible? What kind of proof do you demand?

As coaches you are confronted daily on the ballfield with a choice to believe or not to believe. You are asked to trust a pitcher that hasn’t been executing the last couple of starts. You are asked to put your faith in an at-bat of a struggling player. Similarly, your athletes are expected to trust and believe in your coaching philosophy and your plan to develop their skills.

Trust is hard. Belief isn’t easy. Yet, it is important not only for you as a coach and for your players to trust each other during a season, it is paramount for each one of us as Christians!

John uses the word belief 89 times in his Gospel. He also uses it as a verb – an action word. It is clear that Jesus wants us to believe. It is also clear that Jesus expects us to believe even when we can’t “see it” or it doesn’t seem possible. Jesus says to Thomas; *“Because you have seen Me, you have believed. Those who believe without seeing are blessed.”* (v. 29).

As a coach called by God to exhibit the grace, mercy and love of Christ, you must be willing to believe; even when it doesn’t seem possible. Your players need your trust in order to believe in themselves; and ultimately in Jesus and the purpose He has for them.

Believe! Trust in the One who called you!

Question(s): Do you need to see to believe? Can you trust even during those times when the world is telling you not to believe?

Challenge: Read John 20.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for calling me to coach for your Kingdom! Give me the strength to believe and to trust in you even when I can’t see it! Amen

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