



June 11, 2018

Gentle, yet Strong!

“My dearly loved brothers, understand this: Everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to anger, for man’s anger does not accomplish God’s righteousness. (James 1:19-20)

Abraham Lincoln wrote about the importance of having “a gentle, but firm, and certain hand.” John Wooden, 9-time NCAA Basketball Champion Coach with UCLA, wrote that “there is nothing stronger than gentleness.”

In an age and sports culture where trash-talking, yelling at officials and embarrassing players all in the name of success and the “scoreboard” are common place, it is important that we as Christian Coaches set a Christ-like example of leadership.

In today’s sports culture gentleness doesn’t sell. Instead, our society teaches that young that are gentle are in turn not tough and will “finish last.” We are a me-first generation that aspires to be the toughest in order to be the greatest. We promote that toughness is the only way to win!

However, in the verse above, James tells us to be “slow to speak and slow to anger.” He goes on further to write that “... man’s anger does not accomplish God’s righteousness.” The gentleness of Jesus shaped James and all of his disciples. The gentleness of his disciples shaped the next generation and left a legacy.

If we learn the gentleness of Jesus and model his approach with our players we too can mold a generation of young men that are Christ-like and leave a lasting legacy.

Live it! Coach it! ...and remember that there is nothing stronger than gentleness.

Question(s): Are you slow to anger? Do your words and tone in which you speak them let your players know you care?

Challenge: Read James 1. Consider how you can be gentle, yet strong!

Prayer: Lord, thank you for your example of leadership – patience and gentleness. Thank you for being patient and gentle with me, yet strong. Give me the same spirit of leadership with my fellow coaches and athletes. Amen.

-- Todd Burger – NOVA/DC FCA Baseball