



October 29, 2018

Priorities

“For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the LORD, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel. (Ezra 7:10)

Great coaches are great teachers. They model the team culture they wish to instill on their team. They are fully committed to the team’s values and the process of attaining them. They never ask their athletes to do something they are not capable of modeling or teaching themselves.

In Ezra Chapter 7 we learn that Ezra, as a priest, was committed to establishing spiritual priorities among the people of Israel (vv. 1-10). The verse above reflects Ezra’s heart as a leader fully committed to his God. The order of priorities in Ezra’s leadership is a great example of how a Coach should lead: *Learn it, Live it, Loan it!*

Ezra studied and discovered the truth himself (Learn it). He then practiced and applied what he had learned (Live it). Finally, as a leader, Ezra passed on to others what he already embraced and empowered others. (Loan it).

As coaches devoted to empowering young men to become Christ-centered leaders on their teams, campuses and in their communities, we must follow Ezra’s model!

We cannot give away what we don’t possess. The Ezra model works in each of the three dimensions of coaching: skills, mind and heart. Until our athletes know that we care for them they will not trust in what we know.

Learn it! Live it! Loan it!

Questions: Have you spent time learning what your athletes need to know in all three dimensions?

Challenge: Read Ezra 7:1-10 and ask yourself whether you are devoting time as a coach to learn, live and loan your athletes what you have been taught.

Prayer: Thank you Lord for calling me to coach for your Kingdom! Thank you for the players, coaches, and parents that you have given me. Grant me the wisdom and confidence to learn and apply what you are teaching me in all areas of my coaching.

-- Todd Burger – NOVA FCA Baseball