



May 8, 2017

Victory!

*“...God has provided something better for us, so that they would not be made perfect without us.”
(Hebrews 11:40)*

The life of Gideon is an inspiration. He is listed in Hebrews as a one of the great men of faith. Yet, we read in Judges that towards the end of his life, he failed to solidify a legacy of faith for his men, his family and Israel.

As coaches concerned with shaping and molding the complete athlete (physical, mental, spiritual), an athlete grounded in the Lord, there is much we can learn from the life of Gideon.

First is wisdom in dealing with criticism. How many times as a coach have you found yourself criticized for your decisions on the field? Gideon after winning a great victory for the people of Israel is criticized sharply by the Ephraimites for not including them in the battle (Judges 8:1). Gideon chooses to deal with the criticism with great charm and tact (v.3). Once the Ephraimites realize that they are valued by Gideon the criticism subsides. Our players and parents at times feel underused and undervalued.

Second, determination when tired and feeling worn out. There comes a time when we feel exhausted by our efforts. Sometimes we must be wise and know when to step back, rest and refresh. Other times, we must keep going as victory is waiting for us around the corner. The key is knowing when to stop and rest and when to keep going. Gideon kept pursuing even though he and his men were exhausted and hungry because he knew that the Spirit of God came upon him (Judges 6:34). It is important that you know your calling. There are times when you may need to reaffirm your call from God.

Finally, boast in the Lord and do not become overconfident in your victories. Gideon knew his weakness (Judges 6:15). He also knew that it was God who would bring victory to him and his men (Judges 7:2, 14-15). Yet Gideon, like us, is a fallible human being. After his team's great victory, he becomes overconfident and fails to consult God (Judges 8:27). It is easy for us and our players to become prideful and overconfident after a victory. However, it is important that we remember that all of our victories are a direct result from the ultimate victory won by Jesus.

God has something better planned for us (Hebrews 11:40). We have the opportunity to enjoy an even better victory than Gideon. A victory full of abundance, freedom and joy! A victory of building a Christ-centered legacy in the lives of our players, our families, and in our community.

Live by faith. Go and build your legacy!

Question(s): Are you coaching with wisdom and determination? Does your confidence come from your faith in Jesus?

Challenge: Read Judges 7 – 8.

Prayer: Thank you God for calling me to coach for your Kingdom! Give me the strength to live and coach by my faith in Jesus. Grant me the wisdom and determination that only comes from you, and may I daily boast in your strength. Amen

-- Todd Burger – NOVA/DC FCA Baseball