

CONQUEST AND VICTORY

"No 'I' in Team"

Joshua 5:1-5

INTRODUCTION:

1. "Timeless Principles of a Winning Team".

2. Seven Inspirational Quotes on Teamwork.

#1 "Individual commitment to a group effort is what makes a team work, a company work, a society work, a civilization work." **Vince Lombardi**

#2 "Remember, teamwork begins by building trust. And the only way to do that is to overcome our need for invulnerability" **Patrick Lencioni**

#3 "None of us is as smart as all of us." **Ken Blanchard**

#4 "Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved." **Mattie Stepanek**

#5 "The best teamwork comes from men who are working independently toward one goal in unison." **James Cash Penney** (J.C. Penney)

#6 "To me, teamwork is the beauty of our sport, where you have 5 acting as one. You become selfless." **Mike Krzyzewski**

#7 "Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence win championships." **Michael Jordan**

FIVE TIMELESS PRINCIPLES OF A WINNING TEAM

I. PRINCIPLE #1 - CONFIDENCE COMES FROM PAST CONQUESTS

1. Joshua 5:1

a) "as soon as"

1) It's amazing how fast news travels.

b) "all the kings of the Canaanites heard"

c) "...heard that the LORD had dried up the water of the Jordan"

d) "their hearts melted"

1) To "dissolve"

2. Cf. 2:10-11

a) "our hearts melted"

1) Just like a candle!!!

3. WOW!! Israel was now standing between their past victory, the Jordan river, and their future challenge, ...Jericho.

4. Their confidence however was in their last victory!!

a) Confidence grows from VICTORY to VICTORY.

b) God was working on their behalf.

II. PRINCIPLE #1 - PREPARATION COMES BEFORE THE PARTICIPATION

1. From a military standpoint, the perfect time to attack Jericho was "NOW".

2. It would only make sense that as soon as they crossed over Jordan, to just keep on going and not get their wits about them.

3. God told Joshua they needed time to prepare.

a) They needed to accomplish 2 things:

1) Circumcise their males who were not circumcised in the wilderness.

2) And to celebrate the Passover.

4. The problem comes when people are so bent on achieving goals that all they want the reward before the preparation.

5. **HERE'S FACT:** Everybody loves *GAME TIME*...but nobody like the *PRACTICE*.

6. **QUOTE:** Tom Osborne, legendary coach of NEBRASKA says this "*Its not hard to find people who have the will to win, but it's extremely difficult to find people who have the will to prepare to win.*"

7. Throughout the Bible we see the premium God places on preparation.

a) **Moses lived 120 years.**

1) The first 40 he lived a life of Luxury and he learned to be somebody.

2) The next 40 years God called him to the desert and he learned to be a Nobody. (Once he learned to be a somebody and then a nobody, God could use him)

3) The last 40 years of his life, he showed everybody, how a nobody could be somebody for God.

4) Moses' productive life and ministry was 40 years...but his preparation took 80 years.

b) **Joseph**

- 1) Was sold into slavery by his brothers.
- 2) Spent 2.5 years in prison for a crime he didn't commit.
- 3) But when it was all said and done God prepared him to lead a nation.

8. We have a tendency these days to minimize the importance of preparation.

9. Remember God's opportunities are not pressured by time.

10. Vs 1, Vs 2 (What???)

III. PRINCIPLE #3 - A COACHABLE SPIRIT IS A REQUIREMENT FOR SUCCESS

1. Vs 2-9

2. *Genesis 17:9-11*

3. Circumcision was instituted by God when he made a covenant with Abraham.

- a) It was to be a sign between God and Israel, of their special covenant relationship.

4. Quotes from the Coaches Whiteboard (What it means to be coachable)

a) "To me being a coachable athlete means no eye rolls, pouty lips or crossed arms. You may think that your coach can't see these mannerisms or that they don't matter, but believe me, they do. Body language is one of the easiest indications of which athletes are ready to listen, ready to learn, and ultimately ready to become a better athlete. Be careful of what your expressions and posture are saying because they often say more than words. Coachable athletes make eye contact and react with positive stance."

b) "Being coachable to me is all about two things: not taking correction personally and the ability to take critical feedback and then directly applying that feedback into the game. It means being an extension of the coach on the court, being even keeled, never getting too high and never getting too low. To me being coachable is as simple as this Doc Rivers quote, "Good players want to be coached, great players want to be told the truth"."

c) **MJ** - "You listen with your eyes".

5. To be coachable is to be compliant - it means to yield to authority, to have a coachable spirit.

6. During the 40 years of wilderness wondering, the Israelites had not practiced circumcision.

a) Why? Vs 6

7. **Very Important:** Show me a winning team, and I'll show you a compliant spirit in the heart of the players.

8. Vs 7-9

IV. PRINCIPLE #4 - UNITY IS THE HEART AND SOUL OF WINNING

1. Vs 10

2. God now wanted them to come together to celebrate their Passover...their **redemption**.

3. The Passover brought them together and caused them to experience the "oneness" they had.

a) They remembered that all in Egypt who did not paint their doorposts with the blood of the lamb experience the death of their firstborn.

b) But all those who believed and did as they were told were saved.

V. PRINCIPLE #5 - MUST HAVE THE ABILITY TO CHANGE

1. Vs 10-12

2. The Lord now had a new program for His people.

a) They now had to trust the Lord as He provided for them through the natural provision of the land that flowed with Milk and Honey.

3. **Acts 12:1-11**

a) God did for Peter what Peter could not do for himself.