



FCA Wrestling – Team Huddle

Week 13: “Taking Responsibility for your actions / your choices/ your life.” (I John 1: 8 – 10)

No wrestler ever improved without being willing to take a hard look at his performance, evaluate it honestly, and start to work on his areas of weakness. Sometimes this means hours of extra drilling on one fine motor skill (like the hand motion on a high crotch series) just to build muscle memory and quicker reaction time, or extra time in the weight room to increase strength, or extra road work to improve conditioning. The improvement process always starts with an honest evaluation of the wrestler’s abilities, in relation to his long-term goals. The same is true in our relationship with God.

1 John 1:8-9: “If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness....”

The Gospel is clear. We have sinned, and separated ourselves from our Holy God. As darkness cannot abide in light, neither can sin abide in the presence of pure Holy God. If we cannot admit this truth to ourselves, God’s Word tells us that we deceive ourselves, and His truth is not in us. However, there is great news! The Gospel tells us that if we ‘confess our sins’, God will forgive us our sins, and cleanse us of all unrighteousness. Why will God do this? Because, although “the wages of sin is death” (Rom.6:23), Jesus paid the price of death for us. He was God in the flesh, and humbled Himself upon the cross, paying the penalty of sin for us. Christ became flesh, and our servant hero, and gave His life upon the Cross to pay the debt that we incurred, so that we may rise up and live with Him forever.

Men, we have built up all season to this point, helping you understand how God loves you, wants a relationship with you, and wants to help you in every aspect of your life, (from the mats, to the classroom, to your home life.) You have heard the truth of Gospel: That God loves you; You are a sinner; Christ died upon a Cross to pay the price for your sins, and then rose from the grave; **But, it is not enough to know these things intellectually. To have an eternal relationship with the Lord, you must act on these truths. You must invite the risen Christ into your heart, repent of your sin, and surrender all of yourself to Him.** Now it is up to you to make an important decision.

Thought Questions:

1. Does anyone know what the word “confession” in the New Testament meant? (Answer: “To agree with”.)
2. What are we acknowledging through confession? (Based on the definition of ‘confess’, we are agreeing with God, concerning our disobedient, or indifferent, attitudes and actions.)
3. What does 1 John 1:9 state happens when we confess?

CLOSE WITH A SHORT PRAYER

(See next page to go into a more detailed explanation of the Gospel with any wrestlers who want to stay longer.)

For those who want to stay for a longer conversation, this is an important conclusion to the regular season. You can review the message of the Gospel, utilizing the message below:

As we end the team devotions for the regular season, there is one final / compelling question: “Will you appear someday at God’s “Judgement Seat”, (His “Great White Throne”) and have your hand raised in victory, and receive His imperishable crown?” Or, will you go down in defeat, to an eternity separated from God and His Kingdom of Heaven? If you want to know for sure that you are on God’s team, and a champion in His eyes, there are 4 points you must know and apply:

1. God created you for an eternal purpose, and He loves you. John 3:16 says, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him, should not perish, but have eternal life.” God made you (Gen. 1:27); He loves you (John 3:16); and He wants to have a personal relationship with you (John 15:13; Rom.5:1, 10).

2. Although God created us for a relationship with Him, all of us have rebelled against Him, and gone our own independent way (at times) with our lives. The Bible calls this attitude “sin”. Rom. 3:23 says “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Sadly, Scripture goes on to say, “The wages (penalty) of sin is death... (Rom. 6:23)”. Death here does not just refer to physical death, but to spiritual death, to spiritual separation from God for all eternity.

3. The “Good News” is that Jesus came to die on the Cross in our place. Rom. 5:8 says, “But God demonstrated His love toward us, in that we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” And not only did Jesus take our sin penalty upon Himself, but He conquered death when He rose from the grave on the third day (I Cor. 15: 3-7). Jesus Christ is God’s solution to our problem of sin. Jesus Himself said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and Life, no man comes to the Father, but through Me.” (John 14:6).

4. The key to joining God’s Team, is turning to God, repenting of our sins (turning from our sin to God), and receiving Jesus Christ into our heart as Lord and Savior. It is not good enough to just agree intellectually with the first 3 points. We must turn to God and surrender our hearts to Christ. John 1:12 says, “As many as received Him (Christ), to them He gave the right to become children of God.” Jesus Christ is knocking at the door of your heart today (Rev.3:20). Will you open the door, turn from your sin, and ask Him to be the Lord of your life?

Close in a word of prayer, giving all the wrestlers a chance to pray and ask Christ into their lives. An appropriate prayer may sound something like this:

Sample “Salvation Prayer”:

“Father in Heaven, I know have sinned against you. Thank you for sending Jesus Christ to die on the Cross for my sins. I ask You to forgive me of my sins. I now ask Jesus to come into my heart, and be my Lord and Savior. Please help me Lord to become the kind of man (person) that You want me to be.

In Christ’s Name, Amen!”