



FCA Wrestling – Team Huddle

Week 15: Learning from Adversity. (Rom. 8: 28)

The other side of last week's story: In the 2002 NCAA finals at 184 lbs., Josh Lambrecht of Oklahoma had built a 14 - 3 lead over Lehigh's Rob Rohn by repeatedly tilting Rohn for 'near fall' points. With Lambrecht ahead 14-3 in the final period, television commentators were sure he was about to win a national championship. Yet with a minute left in the match, from the neutral position, Lambrecht got caught in Rohn's desperation "cement job", and was pinned with 14 seconds left in the NCAA finals.

That was a tough moment in Josh Lambrecht's life. However, as Josh has gone on to tell many young wrestlers, it also became a time in his life that caused him to evaluate what was the most important thing in life. For Josh, he realized that was his relationship with God, that being a man after God's own heart, was the most important thing in life. The pain of his loss in the NCAA finals taught Josh his most important lesson in life: ***That being a winner in God's eyes is the 'most important win of all'.***

Josh Lambrecht finished his wrestling career as a three-time NCAA All-American for the University of Oklahoma, but he will tell you that wins on the mat are not as important as learning what it meant to be a winner on God's team. That is because Josh understands that 'winning' in God's eyes is more important than accomplishment in men's eyes.

Romans 8: 28 tells us, "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good, to those who love Him, and are called according to His purpose."

This passage does not say, "all things are good", but it does tell us that all things – including the hard or painful times – all work out for the good of those who love God. Our heavenly Father knows exactly where we are in our lives at every moment, and He uses the hard times and trials, all for His own perfect purposes in our lives. (Like a good coach who pushes his team to get the most out of them.) Some things in life are tough to take, some things can be dangerous, and some things bring emotional pain. Yet for the person who loves the Lord, and follows His call on their life, even the hardest things of life will work together to strengthen our patience, develop our character, and mature our Christian faith (as we saw last week, in **James 1:3-4**). No matter what we face in life, God will use it all (good or bad) to help us grow into the kind of people He wants us to be. We know that the plan God has for His children is always a good plan in the long run – to benefit us, not to hurt us (**Jeremiah 29:11**).

Discussion Questions:

1. Have you ever worked hard for something, only to come short of your goal and face bitter disappointment?
2. Why do so many bad things happen "after hours"?
3. Have you asked the people you've wronged to be forgiven?
4. Have you asked God you've wronged to be forgiven?
5. How would you feel if you knew you were totally forgiven for every sin you've ever committed?

CONCLUDE WITH A SHORT PRAYER