

LIFE LESSONS FROM THE OLYMPICS

SERMON NOTES

Week 3 August 15, 2021

“The Power of the Team”

Hebrews 10:24-25, 12:1-2a, Galatians 6:2



I. Challenging One Another

- A. Successful teams use the _____ of each individual athlete.
- B. It’s a myth that we can be _____ and achieve success all on our own.
- C. The writer of Hebrews encourages us to “provoke” or spur one another to _____.

II. Encouraging One Another

- A. The _____ was one who came alongside to champion another person.
- B. The name Barnabas means _____ of Encouragement.

III. Lifting One Another

- A. The way to fulfill the law of Christ is to carry one another’s _____.
- B. The gathering of the church, even virtually, can be a visible expression of its _____ nature.
- C. The International Olympics Committee changed its motto this year, adding the Latin word “Communiter” meaning _____.

Things I Would Like to Remember About This Message



ASBURY DAILY STUDY GUIDE *August 16-21, 2021*

INTRODUCTION

A number of Olympic competitions are team sports. As Christians we are called to be a part of a team. To be a Christian is to be connected to others, to be in relationship. Jesus did not simply call us to love God, but also to love our neighbor. He started a church to be a place where believers would encourage one another, “provoke” and challenge one another to good deeds, and bear one another’s burdens. That’s what it means to be part of a team.

Monday: Hebrews 10:19-25

The scripture encourages us to continue “the habit of meeting with one another,” but the Pandemic made meeting together in person a big challenge. As you reflect over the last year and a half, have new ways of meeting on Zoom or another platform, been meaningful? What do you most value about meeting together with other Christians? Pray about how you can lift the burdens of fellow Christians by meeting together in the ways that are comfortable for you.

Tuesday: Jude 1:3-4, 17-21

The writer of Jude says we need to “contend for the faith,” the word means to fight or struggle. Paul uses the same word in 1 Corinthians 9:25 to describe the struggle or striving in Olympic competition. The author urges God’s people to join together as a team to protect and build up one another in the faith, and not be influenced by scoffers. Has anyone ever made you feel foolish for your faith? How might a strong Christian group help anchor your faith? Pray about your participation in a group that can help build your faith.

Wednesday: 1 Corinthians 12:1-13

The Apostle Paul reminds the church in Corinth that each one is given a different spiritual gift, not for ourselves, but for the greater good of the Christian community as a whole. Each and every gift is needed to make a team successful. Have you identified your spiritual gifts that you are called to offer in service to Christ? Today, pray and ask where God is calling you to use your unique and special gifts on Christ’s team.

Thursday: Galatians 5:25-6:4

Paul writes in Galatians 5:26 “Let’s not become arrogant, make each other angry, or be jealous of each other.” Arrogance, contentiousness, and jealousy are three attitudes any coach would tell you will tear a team apart. Rather, if someone strays, Paul says restore them “gently,” and carry one another’s burdens. In this time today, has God brought to mind someone carrying a burden? Pray for this person and do what you can to lighten their load.

Friday: John 15:8-17

Jesus gives the command to “love one another.” There were times along the way that Jesus’ first disciples stumbled in their efforts to be a team, even seeing each other as rivals. Only by abiding in Christ’s love, are we truly able to love one another well. Jesus longed to create a community of trusted friends. Today, pray that God would strengthen your trusted Christian friendships and pray that you could be a trusted friend.

MOVING FORWARD

Seventy-five percent of Olympic events are individual events. But even for athletes competing in individual events, they have an amazing team behind them. Their team consists of coaches, other athletes, a cadre of medical staff, family and friends. No one wins a gold medal all on their own. And Christians aren’t meant to run the race God set before them all alone. We all need to be on a team. Teammates will encourage you, challenge you, and help you in your race. Who is on your team? If you don’t have a team, pray about ways to find a team, perhaps joining a small group this fall.

Answers to the sermon notes: IA) strengths, B) self-sufficient, C) good deeds. IIA) Paraclete, B) Son. IIIA) burdens, B) spiritual, C) together.