

Sunday, August 4, 2024

Scripture Reading: 2 Samuel 11:26-12:13a

What to do with a mistake: recognize it, admit it, learn from it, forget it.
—Dean Smith

Hard coaching. Sometimes, when a player comes off the football field after committing a mindless mistake, he's going to get an earful. Some players need it more than others, especially the talented kids who have been pampered, praised and fawned over in high school. In college, it's a different ball game.

But sometimes, hard coaching can turn into bullying and abuse. It can cross the line.

That said, most players need hard coaching, and the good ones not only realize it, but want it. And now, in early August, high school, college and professional football practices are in high gear, and thousands of players are trying to make teams. Most of them don't mind some hard coaching. It shows that the coach cares.

In today's Old Testament story about David's tawdry affair with Bathsheba, the prophet Nathan gives King David some serious hard coaching. When Nathan tells the king a hypothetical story of a rich man who took a poor man's lamb and slaughtered it for his dinner, the king was furious, and wanted his head.

Nathan roared: "You are the man!" (2 Samuel 12:7). Oops! Not the king's finest moment. The king is accused of being a sexual predator, adulterer and a murderer. That is hard, if not courageous, coaching! Then, and only then, did David relent, confess and repent.

We need not wait for hard coaching. We can look within ourselves, and ask God, as the psalmist did, to examine us, "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me" (139:23-24). We can be honest in the light of God's word. We can let the Scriptures confront us, challenge us and cleanse us. We can repent before we are found out. We can confess before the need to confess becomes obvious.

Then we'd not only be doing David one better, we'd be doing the right thing.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Lord Jesus, I don't want to be blind to my faults. May I be willing to accept hard coaching, so that I might serve you better. In your name. Amen.

*Blessings,
Jesus & Pastor Ben Motz*

Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** James 1-2
- Monday:** Jeremiah 9-12
- Tuesday:** Jeremiah 13-16
- Wednesday:** Jeremiah 17-20
- Thursday:** Jeremiah 21-23
- Friday:** Jeremiah 24-26
- Saturday:** Psalms 85-87

Verse to Remember

How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD. —Psalm 84:1-2

NAMES AND PLACES

Draw lines to connect the biblical figures with the locations that are often associated with them.

- | | |
|-----------|----------|
| Abraham | Moab |
| Amos | Canaan |
| Ananias | Babylon |
| Cornelius | Caesarea |
| Daniel | Nineveh |
| Dorcas | Jericho |
| Esther | Ur |
| Jesus | Tarsus |
| Jonah | Joppa |
| Joshua | Aram |
| Lydia | Tekoa |
| Martha | Bethany |
| Moses | Egypt |
| Naaman | Philippi |
| Ruth | Nazareth |
| Saul | Persia |
| Zacchaeus | Damascus |

August 2024						
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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

TIME ON YOUR HANDS?
The top 10 things to do!

Got some spare time on your hands, and don't know what to do next? Here are some ideas:

1. Write a 50-word poem.
2. Find 10 things that start with the letter P.
3. Write a letter.
4. Make a list of the three top things for which you are grateful.
5. Memorize one Bible verse.
6. Read the Bible passage for the current days found in the upper left hand corner of this page.
7. Color a picture, or draw a picture.
8. Look up a word you don't understand in the dictionary.
9. Think of someone to whom you'd like to be especially kind today.
10. Write a letter to God.

Answers:
 Abraham-Ur;
 Amos-Tekoa;
 Ananias-Damascus;
 Cornelius-Caesarea;
 Daniel-Babylon;
 Dorcas-Joppa;
 Esther-Persia;
 Jesus-Nazareth;
 Jonah-Nineveh;
 Joshua-Canaan;
 Lydia-Philippi;
 Martha-Bethany;
 Moses-Egypt;
 Naaman-Aram;
 Ruth-Moab;
 Saul-Tarsus;
 Zacchaeus-Jericho.

