

## **Making a Contribution**

### **Ready:**

Then he said to them all, “If anyone wants to follow after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow me. —Luke 9:23

### **Set**

In a survey, managers and employees were once asked what aspects of their job were most important to them. The results uncovered that while the managers focused on things such as job security and benefits, the employees simply wanted to know that what they were doing made a difference.

What is the first thing that we as athletes or coaches look for when we see the new team photograph? Ourselves, right? We are naturally selfish beings. Coaches might say, “There’s no ‘I’ in ‘team,’” but no matter how many times we repeat it, the “I” is always a problem. We fight a daily battle with selfishness, which affects how we contribute to our teams, businesses, families, and even our relationship with Christ.

Jesus was the only human who did not yield to selfish tendencies. He offered the greatest contribution humanity has ever known: the sacrifice of His life for our sins! In order to make a powerful impact for Christ and contribute our gifts to building His kingdom, we are called to follow His selfless example. Through His power in us, we can live out Jesus’ words in Luke 9:23, denying ourselves in following Him. When we do, it will undoubtedly lead to the most significant contribution we’ll ever make!

### **Go**

- Are your contributions for your sake, or for Christ and His kingdom?
- How can God use your contributions to serve your team instead of yourself?

### **Workout**

Philippians 2:1-4; 1 Peter 5:1-7

### **Overtime**

Lord, I pray that You would increase in me as I decrease. Fix my eyes on you and allow me to lean on your wisdom. In Jesus’ name, amen.



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