

## **Play the Next Play, God's Way?**

n/a

### **Ready:**

"Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—and I am the worst of them. But I received mercy because of this, so that in me, the worst of them, Christ Jesus might demonstrate the utmost patience as an example to those who would believe in Him for eternal life." — 1 Timothy 1:15-16

### **Set**

Much like Paul, I also felt at times that I was the worst of sinners. I wondered how God could forgive me, how He could use me. I didn't measure up. As a young football coach, I modeled myself after several older, rough and rugged, salty coaches who were known to be profane to the extreme and who had a "take no prisoners" attitude. It had worked for them; maybe it would work for me. Using these questionable techniques, I, too, became successful—as in wins and losses. I gained the respect of my peers and won trophies and accolades, but for what? There was still a major hole that needed to be filled—a Jesus hole.

I rededicated my life to Christ after drifting away for years. I seemed to be getting back on track. But something still wasn't right. I had not invited Christ into one of the most important parts of my life—my career, my purpose. I was afraid of the unknown, afraid of being labeled a hypocrite. I had sinned way too often and in front of too many people for me to proclaim my faith now. I thought I would work on this Christian thing for a while, and then Christ would be able to use me. Not today—maybe tomorrow.

### **Go**

1. Have you found yourself asking some of the same questions as a player or coach?
2. What old habits or skeletons still haunt you in your walk with Christ?
3. What is holding you back from bringing Christ into your locker room?

### **Workout**

Extra Reading: Matthew 5:16; Luke 9:26; Romans 3:23; Colossians 3:23

### **Overtime**

Lord, I pray that we as coaches will understand that Christ can use us now, right where we are. We do not have to be perfect; we never will be. We are a work in progress. I pray for courage and conviction to take a stand for Christ. Amen.



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