

Leading with Power presentation

Good & Great

I was at a Wrestling coaches clinic together with one of the top college coaches in the country. At the Friday evening banquet he spoke to the coaches about when he started at his school and what he wanted to create. He challenged them about the creative act of coaching and the power of choice. "As you create your program, you need to choose how great you want to be." Do you want to be top 20? Top 10? Top 5? Or National Champions?" The trajectory of your choice will determine the trajectory of your preparation. The next day was my turn. I fully agreed with this coach. You do need to determine how great you are going to be. However that's not the only choice you need to make. As you think about and plan for what you want to create as a coach, as you see what is and imagine what could be, You need to choose how good you are going to be.

Here's what I mean:

In Genesis 1 we are invited on a tour with the artist as He describes His creation. Genesis Chapter 1... I love this description of creation. It is poetic and inspiring, and revealing as we think of the creative act. There is a sense of redundancy here. In each phase, in each time period, God is creating a different layer of the reality we know of as the universe. But His redundant, repeated observation is, and it was good....and it was good...and it was good...and it was good....and it was very good. One of the things we can miss at the beginning of creation is that this was the initial description of the creative act. There's an intimate relationship between the essence of the artist and the essence of his or her work.

Now if I am in charge of the description of my art, I don't think I would have chosen the word "good," how about you? If I was separating light from darkness, and placing solar systems and galaxies into the deep, dark, vast emptiness of space, I think I would have called it, "awesome!" It was like, really awesome! Or maybe at least I would have said it was "great!" Ever ask somebody, "how did I do?" and they said, well, it was good. "what do you mean it was good?" Later on in my insecurities when I ask you about my talk I don't want to hear "It was good." I want to hear it was awesome, amazing, life changing. It was Great, because we know Great is better than Good, right?!

It's strange that here in this description of God's most majestic act of creativity, a matchless expression of artistry He chooses to describe it as good. NOT Great, NOT awesome, NOT extraordinary, which would all fit. I think the problem of our understanding of the creative act is that we are far more motivated to be great, than to be good. ... And if GREAT can be a response to the quality of our work,...GOOD is a response to the essence of our work. Of course it was great...

I think a part of the dilemma of the athletic journey is more often than not we are inspired to create something GREAT (We want to have a GREAT program) than to create something GOOD. ...

7 Tour de France Championships were great, I'm not sure how good it was
73 & 70 Home Runs were great...

Competition and Play

Before making a prescription for what the Apostle Paul says is “a better way,” We need make a proper diagnosis. Prescription without diagnosis is malpractice.

Understanding is the basis of care. We need to understand the following if we are to protect and enjoy God’s good gift

1. Play as a God-given gift: my definition: an activity that involves our whole being (body, mind and spirit). It is marked by joy and wonder as it captures our imagination and our effort in process and pursuit
2. Play is life-giving; competition is life draining. It doesn’t necessarily make it bad, but it does require recovery time.
3. Sport in God’s created order as related to sport in its present state
Play – Games – Sports:
 1. Readiness – Like Driving, I don’t put my 5 year old behind the wheel. It is disconcerting that a culture like ours that appears to value sports research seems to be blithely impervious to the best developmental research available. The research is so abundantly clear that our kids aren’t ready for this competition model that it boggles my mind that smart adults can be so wrong with what we are doing to our children.
 2. Competition is the spice that livens up our games. What happens when it becomes the purpose? When it becomes the purpose it enthrones winning and removes joy and wonder in the process and pursuit. If winning is on the throne Jesus is not.