

Set Apart – Week 2

5 Stones

Main Thought: Don't conform; be set apart from everyone else. Have an attitude of clinging to what is right and detesting (hating) the wrong thing.

Talk: Every athlete wants to be “set apart.” Anyone who competes does so with the attitude of being the best and giving their all in order to stand out. Very rarely will someone join a team to blend in or be average. As athletes we want to “stand out.”

Understand that there is a good way and a not so good way to stand out. Being confident and focused to be successful and help your team succeed is good. Being prideful and self-centered to achieve your own success is not so good. Our goal should be to stand out in a good way. We want to be set apart from everyone else, as we give our best and focus on working towards a common team goal. We do this not get a pat on the back and get recognition, but to honor God by using the talents He gave us.

Did you know that God is set apart from all other gods? He is the one and only God, He is a Holy God. Holy is often defined in the Bible as being “set apart.” Here's a kicker, we are told in the Bible to “holy” as God is “holy.” We should be living in a way that is set apart from the rest of this world.

In the book of Romans the writer, Paul, gives us the secret to living a life “set apart.” He says we are not to conform to this world. In other words, don't be like the average person fitting into this world's system. Instead, we are to be changed and transformed, set apart from the world. Paul gives some good applications to help us achieve the goal of being set apart and two of those applications can be found in verse nine.

Here are two secrets to being “set apart.” Cling to what is right and detest what is evil.

The first challenge is to cling to what is right. The word “cling” is the same word used for adhesive. Paul uses this word to give us a picture of sticking to those things that are right. If it is good and right, stick to it. Grab hold and don't let go. That's a positive command!

The second challenge is to detest what is evil. The word “detest” means to have a strong gut feeling against and to hate. It's that sick feeling you get in your stomach that makes you want to violently react to something that isn't good. Seeing the evil in this world should cause us to spiritually want to throw up. If it is evil or wrong, then we need to detest that thing, we need to spit it out of our life. What are some things that would cause you to toss your cookies? We should have the same attitude towards wrong and evil things in our world.

Coach's participation: Ask the coaches at practice, “What is your biggest enemy, your pet peeve, that thing that makes you want to throw up in the midst of competition?” Penalty? Missed block? Typically the answer isn't you as a player, it's what the players do or don't do. They get upset at the actions and not the persons.

When David arrived on the battle scene, he wasn't taken back by the size of Goliath or the fact that Goliath was a Philistine. David questioned why this giant was allowed to talk about God the way he did. His opponent was real, his opponent wanted him dead, and yet David's focus was on the attitude of this giant. It caused David to want to

rise up and do something. David was clinging to the right things and when he saw the wrong thing, it took little David to a higher level!

As an athlete what things should make you upset – things or people? Penalties, laziness, poor attitude, disrespect for authority should upset you. When other players are okay with not giving 100% you should be upset, when other players are okay with making mistakes or blaming the coach or referee, you should be upset. We should have the attitude of detesting these things because you are set apart.

Off the field of competition, consider things in your life that are destructive to you and others – those things you need to detest!

FOCUS - We previously said “your role is important” – “your role matters.” Without you – full function can’t take place. You are family. Family looks out for each other. Within your family, understand that you are set apart. You aren’t supposed to be like the world – you are disciplined. As a family, together you cling to what is right, and you detest what is wrong.

DO HARD THINGS: Anyone can say the right things and agree with this team talk, but those who want to raise the bar and live at a higher level will take a challenge.

1. Be honest and ask yourself what destructive things are you messing with...choose to walk away. Find a teammate or coach and share with them what you are walking away from and ask for their help.

Optional: Object: *If you want an object to hold consider a superhero and his nemesis.* Can you name this superhero? Who is his arch-enemy, his nemesis? I’m holding a Teenage Mutant Ninja and Shredder. For every hero, there is a villain! The super hero isn’t about hurting the villain (typically), rather the super hero is concerning with stopping the evil doings of this villain. The focus is on the things they do, not the person. The super hero is set apart focusing on clinging to what is right. The super hero hates the evil things, that is, they hate the crime, and not so much the evil doer.

Create your own “Hard Thing” for your team. Make sure you challenge the team to rise up!