

## Bucket Talk – Influence & Perspective

**Influence**—Getting others to follow you    **Perspective**—A mental view or outlook

### Bible Verses

**Matthew 5:14-15** "You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house". (*influence*)

**1 Cor 9:24-25** "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last; but we do it to get a crown that will last forever". (*perspective*)

### Our Influence as a coach and the Perspective that we take

Coaching involves serving, teaching, encouraging and leading. As a coach, you have a tremendous amount of influence on the lives of those you coach. In addition to your players, you also have influence on the lives of your players families, opposing players and their families, opposing coaches, umpires, spectators and if you have a team website...well, your influence is almost endless. As it says in the above scripture, "A city situated on a hill cannot be hidden". You...coach...are that city. What a responsibility!

As a coach, our responsibility goes beyond athletic training. We are called upon to mold & shape the lives of young men & young women. Many of us fall into the trap of putting the product - the goal of winning - as a higher priority than shaping lives. It is an easy trap to fall into. We start to compare ourselves to other coaches and what the world perceives as their "successes". That comparison leads to the death of our contentment. We then start to measure our identity and our worth by the trophies, tournament wins and championships that we win as a coach. The pursuit of those "crowns that wont last" cause us to care more about our won-loss record than the young men & young women that we have been entrusted with. To care more about the "player" than the "person".

For some of us, coaching is a profession. For others, it may be a hobby or an opportunity to share time and the game that we love with our sons & daughters. Regardless of which category we fall into, for most of us, coaching is a passion. God has given us that passion along with the gifts necessary to coach, and He is honored when we utilize our gifts and our passion that He has given us. That is, as long as coaching doesn't become our God.

Ultimately, our perspective impacts our influence. So...here's the challenge. As we begin to plan for this upcoming season, I would like all of us to come up with a vision for our teams and determine what our perspective will be. Take some time and answer the following questions. Write your answers down and hold yourself accountable by looking at your answers each time you head out for the field. Create your vision and stick to it!

Why do I Coach?                      How will I define success this season...what is a "win"?

Who am I trying to please?                      Do I view coaching as a job or a ministry?

Do my players KNOW that I care for them as people?