

Coachable

Challenge: In the 1984 film "The Karate Kid" Daniel moves to a new town with his mother and quickly becomes the target of bullies who study karate. Fortunately, he is befriended by a wise old sage, Mr. Miyagi, who is a kind-hearted repairman and just so happens to be a martial arts master himself. Miyagi takes on Daniel as a protégé teaching him a more companionate form of karate while using more unorthodox training methods (ie. sanding a deck, balancing on stumps, waxing a car and painting a fence). This is all done for Daniel's self-defense and in preparation to compete against the merciless Cobra Kai dojo. Daniel did not understand the end of what he felt where meaningless household chores. A good portion of the movie portrays Daniel in defiance of the training methods of Mr. Miyagi, but he stuck it out. Daniel proved to be teachable/coachable and victorious!

"I DIDN'T do anything wrong, coach! That wasn't my ball. Billy should have covered that one! I hear what you're saying coach, but, I was in position. I did everything I was supposed to. You should talk to the defense about that. They were the ones who really screwed this thing up."

If there's one thing that frustrates coaches, it's having an "un-coachable" athlete or two on their team. What's an "un-coachable" athlete? It's someone who feels that they are never wrong, that the coach is unfairly picking on them whenever any kind of critical or even constructive feedback is given and the player simply refuses to take any responsibility for their mistakes or failure.

The "un-coachable" athlete is usually a finger pointer, blaming teammates, opponents, officials, weather conditions, or crowd whenever things go wrong! "The sun was in my eyes and I slipped because the field sucked! Let's face it, that's why we lost and I'm telling you, that ref was blind as a bat, because I was safe!"

Whenever the coach tries to provide this kind of athlete with any constructive feedback, even if it's mild and necessary, the "un-coachable" athlete becomes highly defended. If they don't argue with the coach outright, they make it perfectly clear through posture, facial expression and voice tone that they think they're right and the coach is wrong!

Questions to consider:

Have you had an un-coachable teammate? What was it like to be on the same team?

How do you receive instruction, coaching, or correction?

What's going on: Word spread about Jesus miracles and large crowds began following Jesus around the Sea of Galilee. One day the crowds got so large that Jesus got into a boat and began to teach all the people. Jesus talked to the people by using words and word pictures that they could understand.

Game Time: Mark 4:1-20

1. What are the different responses (soil) to the teachings of Jesus (seed)?

2. Is there anything wrong to the seed?
3. Is there anything getting in your way from receiving the seed?
4. What kind of fruit (character) is being produced in your life because of the seed (God's Word)?

Key Verse: "...the ones on whom seed was sown on the good soil; and they hear the word and accept it and bear fruit, thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold." Mark 4:20

Anchor to remember:

- Your heart is revealed in your actions