

Accountability

Story: The 2013 BCS National championship game was the last one played before the integration of the new playoff system. The game pitted the #1 ranked Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs the #2 ranked Alabama Crimson Tide. It was a blowout! In fact, the day after the game, most people were not talking about the play on the field, they were talking about “The Shove.”

Alabama was winning 42-14 late in the 4th quarter. They were in possession of the ball with one goal, run the clock and win the game. Deep into the play clock the Tide had yet to get to the line. Upon the line of scrimmage Quarterback A.J. McCarron began to scurry, barking out orders to the team. Center Barrett Jones was also pointing, looking, and clearly trying to communicate. The play clock ticked away 3, 2, 1...whistle. A delay of game penalty was called. To which the slight of frame McCarron got in the face of Jones yelling his displeasure. Jones responded by shoving McCarron backwards and almost to the ground.

Why did Barrett Jones and A.J. McCarron get into an embarrassing argument, even though Alabama was clearly in control and would win the game? Their standard was perfection. It didn't matter that they were up 28 points and the game was practically over. The team at this point was competing against themselves. They were holding one another accountable for a less than stellar effort.

McCarron said the incident was quickly forgotten, “Just two guys trying to be the best. That's it.” If you want to be a championship team, it's necessary to constructively confront one another to be your best. Conflict can be healthy and helpful, if it is the product of mutual trust.

Questions to consider:

Do you call out the best in your teammates?

Who in your life has pushed you to pursue excellence?

Have you ever had to call someone out or been called out yourself? What was the end result?

Do you naturally seek out accountability with others or run from it? Why or why not?

Context: Anyone can fall and make decisions and choices which they know are wrong. Even a man like David, who truly desired to follow God was susceptible to temptation. David's sin with Bathsheba should be a warning for us to guard our hearts, our eyes, and our minds.

Scripture: 2 Samuel 11

1. Where should David have been when kings go out to war? Where was he?
2. What was the major difference between David and Uriah in the story?

3. What were some of the results of David not being where he needed to be and thinking only of himself?

Key Verse: "Iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." Proverbs 27:17

Anchor to remember:

- You need others pushing and encouraging you along the journey.