

Week 5: Fearless in the Face of Adversity

“A River Cuts through a rock not because of its Power, but because of its resistance”.

I watched the Jackson High School soccer team win their first playoff game yesterday. It took me back to my times of playing soccer. When I was a senior, we played the same team that they played in the first round. This team won 4-0, but in my senior year, we tied in regulation and overtime, so that took us to a PK shootout. For those of you who are unfamiliar with a PK shootout, I will explain it briefly. So basically, it is a free shot between the goalie and the shot taker. The shot taker has no defenders between him and the goalie and is about 15 yards out. Once the referee blows the whistle, the shot taker is allowed to run up and shoot, and the goalie will then have the chance to save the shot. Best of 5 – whoever wins the PK shootout will advance in the tournament.

So, my team entered the PK shootout. It was my senior year. Win and you get to play the next game, or lose and you will never play another soccer game again. I had been in a PK shootout my sophomore year and had won, but this felt like a whole different level of pressure. However, I felt like this was the most alive I had ever been, since the adrenaline had kicked in. I was stone cold in my approach – I knew I was going to win this battle for my team. I had accepted what needed to be done. It was time.

I won't go into the details of the PK shootout because I could describe it for pages. However, in the end, we won. They had made 1 shot and we made 3. A win for the men in red. So, you might be asking: “Ty, where are you even going with this story?” Well, let me describe it to you.

We need to be stone cold in our faith. I don't mean that in a way of being bland to those around us. I mean that in a way of **NO MATTER WHAT COMES OUR WAY, OUR MISSION AS SERVANTS OF CHRIST DOES NOT CHANGE**. Much like my mission as a goalie did not change in times of adversity (save the ball,) our mission should not change either during times of adversity. In fact, Jesus reminds us of the fact that he is never changing in Hebrews. It is penned in *Hebrews 13:8* “*Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever*”. Jesus Christ was the same before he was persecuted as he is today. He has always loved his enemies. He has always been righteous in his ways. He has always aimed to let the sinners feel loved.

When I was in that PK shootout, I did not have time to second-guess myself. I didn't have to think about *what if I mess up? What if I let everyone down? Will people think less of me if I lose us the game?* My job was simple: defend my goal and stop the ball from going in the net. No distractions. No doubt. No backing down.

That is exactly how our walk with Christ should be in the many seasons of adversity. **Our mission doesn't change when storms come. Our faith doesn't crumble when pressure mounts. Our hope doesn't vanish just because fear shows up at the door.**

When the pressures of the world feel like they're squeezing every last ounce of energy out of us, we should press back, knowing that we have the King of all Kings in our corner. He went to the cross for us. He was beaten. Nails were driven in his hands. A crown of thorns was placed on top of his head. All this, and you still question whether he can heal your sickness? You question whether he can guide you in your professional career? Why?

Let's look at the most obvious example of this 'fearless in the face of adversity' in the bible – David and Goliath. Could you imagine being in David's shoes? The entire biblical world saw this giant. But what did David see? He saw this as a chance to prove the almighty power of God. Most people would have stepped back in fear – yet David stepped forward in Faith.

Are you like David, or are you like the rest of the world who steps back in times of fear? Be like David. Do not look at the size of the giants in our lives. Whatever the problems are in your life, face them head-on with the Lord. Just like when I was in the PK shootout, David knew his mission and defeated Goliath.

The River does not split the Rock because it is the most powerful or overwhelming force in the World. It cuts through because it is consistent. It's unwavering. It's consistent.

You might be in a 'PK Shootout' moment of your life right now. Financial Burdens, relationship strands, divorces, death.... You name it. One thing does not change during these times. **YOUR MISSION IN CHRIST DOES NOT CHANGE.** Stay firm. Defend your faith. Fix your eyes on the one that has never changed.

In a world where we are persecuted for our beliefs in the King of all Kings, be unwavering in your faith. Just like David. Just like Daniel. Just like John.

In the shootout of Life, fear takes the shot — but faith is right there to make the save.

GOD BLESS - TY