

TIME IS RUNNING OUT

Time is running out for me as a basketball coach right now. Time is in fact my enemy. The reason why I say this is because in just under two weeks my team is supposed to travel to Ottawa to play in the Provincial Championships. If the tournament was to be played today, I would have to forfeit. The reason why I would have to do this is at the moment I do not have enough healthy players. The minimum number of players I need on my team in order to play in the championships is 8. Even though I have 10 players on our team only 6 are healthy at the moment.

My best-case scenario will be to have 9 healthy players for these championship games. I already know that one of my players who currently has a concussion will not be available to play. Her doctor has already ruled out the possibility of her playing. Another one of my players sustained a broken finger a few weeks ago in a weekend series of games we played. She is still wearing a splint on her broken finger. The doctor thinks it will be able to be removed before we go to Ottawa, but that decision will depend on what another x-ray shows later this week. Fingers crossed, including broken ones on this player. My other two players who are injured have back and ankle injuries. These girls have been battling these injuries for nearly five weeks now, and they don't seem to be getting better. In fact, the player with the ankle sprain reinjured it last week at her school dance. The reality about back injuries and ankle sprains is there are no timelines with respect to recovery.

With less than two weeks to go I am running out of time with respect to these healings. My assistant coaches are beginning to become concerned if we will be able to attend and play. I will admit my mind has thought about this possibility often of late. Every time my mind goes there, I am reminded of a story in the Bible that encourages me that I may be running out of time, but I am not running out of hope.

The leader of a local synagogue named Jairus was running out of time when it came to his twelve-year-old daughter's health. We do not know how long his daughter's health was declining, just that it had worsened to the point that she could soon die. With time running out when Jairus heard that Jesus had just arrived in his town, he went immediately to see Him and pleaded for Him to

come and lay His hands on the little girl in order to make her well. This father obviously had faith in Jesus that He could heal his daughter. Along the way Jairus received word that his daughter had died. It would appear time ran out for Jairus. Naturally this father was devastated at this moment and lost all hope. Jesus' words to Jairus at this moment were these:

"Don't be afraid. Just have faith." (Mark 5:36)

When we look at Jesus' words from Jairus' point of view at this moment there would seem nothing to be hopeful about. Time had run out for any hope or miracle. Jesus was wanting Jairus to look at this problem from His perspective: that there is always hope when we put our faith in Him. Jairus showed faith in Jesus at this moment and continued on with Him back to his house. When they arrived at Jairus' home, Jesus took control of the situation by having all the mourners leave the room. Then Jesus took the little girl's hand and raised her back to life. Neither time, nor hope had run out in this situation from Jesus' perspective. This story is a powerful lesson and reminder to us that if we look at things from Jesus' perspective we can always keep hoping even if time seems to be running out.

Right now, I am in a similar situation as Jairus was. Time may be running out for my players to get healed before the Provincial Championships, but my faith is keeping me positive and hopeful. Maintaining my faith in this moment is my responsibility. Staying hopeful and positive in my faith right now for the sake of my assistant coaches, my players, and their parents is my witness to them at this moment. Praying each day and asking Jesus to heal these players in His perfect way and timing is my responsibility as well. Letting Jesus take control of this situation is also my responsibility. That is what Jairus did and look how everything worked out in the end. So, it is this story that I am living and following right now as time is running ever closer to our weekend in Ottawa. If I was looking at this just from my perspective, I would be losing hope. Looking at it from Jesus' perspective I have not stopped being hopeful.

Perhaps there will be a moment in your life when you feel that time is running out for you, or somebody you love. Maybe that moment is taking place right now for you, as it is for me. The words that Jesus spoke to Jairus as time was running out were meant for me as well as for you. Will we choose to be afraid

and worry, or will we put our complete trust in Jesus and remain hopeful despite the reality that time is not on our side? Don't be surprised if when you find yourself in this situation that Jesus, through the Holy Spirit, does not whisper these words to you. That is what He did for me on Monday. As I found myself thinking about my reality and worrying, Jesus reminded me of Jairus, and His words to this man who was running out of time. I listened to these words and put worry aside. I also put worry aside and decided to share my experience with you. The words spoken by Jesus, "Don't be afraid, just have faith!" are helping me right now as time is running out. May these words be placed on your heart if you ever find yourself in a situation that you are running out of time and hope. Time is not on my side right now, but hope is. With hope on our side anything is possible, just ask Jairus.

God Bless and Keep Safe

Pastor Dean