

Jimmy and the Team

Value: Humility



Jimmy was always a real proud person. This is a good thing up to a point, but when people are too proud or depend on themselves too much, then, that sometimes isn't such a good thing.

Jimmy was always good in baseball, hockey, soccer, and football. In fact, Jimmy was pretty good in most things that he did.

If you were to ask him, there was none better.

"I'm the best there is," Jimmy would say, no matter what the subject was. "I can do ANYTHING better than anyone else. There isn't any sports in school that I'm not the best at," he would say.

It was true that Jimmy was pretty good in what he did. He put great effort into anything that he tried. As a matter of fact, Jimmy was better than some but not as good as others.

One year in school, Jimmy was playing on the football team. The school's football team had been the champions in their league for many, many years. Many, many years before Jimmy even went to school there.



"I can play this position better than he can," Jimmy told the coach, or "I can play better than that other boy is playing."

Although Jimmy was a likeable little boy, his classmates, friend's, his teachers, and now even the coaches were starting to not like the boasting and how Jimmy was starting to act.

This one year in particular, Jimmy's school was not doing too well in football. In fact, a lot of what he had said was rubbing off on some of the other children at the school. Some started acting like him. Others started not being as close friends as they used to be.

The football team kept getting worse and worse! Not only the football team alone, but also Jimmy's playing was playing worse and worse too.



"I don't understand it," he would tell the coach. "I don't understand how I can keep missing those simple passes."

The school's football team did very badly that year. For the first time that anyone could remember they had come in last place.

"It's all the other boys' fault," Jimmy would say. "I could have won those games if that coach would have listened to me and let me play more."

Finally, spring came and with it came the baseball season.



As usual, Jimmy played on the baseball team.

As was in the football season, the baseball team was having a pretty bad season too.

“Why, it’s those other boys,” he would say. “I can play better than them all.” They were playing in the most important game of the season, but the whole school team; including Jimmy was not doing well at all.

Time after time, Jimmy kept striking out. “I don’t get it,” he would say, “I just don’t get it.”

Finally Jimmy’s baseball coach pulled Jimmy aside so that he could have a talk with you.

“You know, Jimmy, I’ve been watching and listening to you,” the coach said. “But more important, God has been watching and listening to you. You are normally a good player Jimmy, and God gives us all skills and talents.”



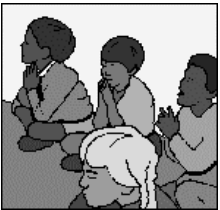
“Yes, I know,” said Jimmy.

“Well, when we depend on ourselves only, and not on God, God is not pleased with us. Especially when we boast of ourselves. You see Jimmy, in the Bible, God’s word says that we are to humble ourselves before Him. Do you know what it means to be humble?”

“Yes I do,” answered Jimmy.

“That’s good; Jimmy, because it says in the Bible that “before honor is humility”. It is not only as individual people that we are to be humble, but also as a country. The Bible says, “if we as a nation were to humble ourselves and turn to God, then He will hear us and heal our land”. That means that when people do not turn to God, or they put themselves first instead of Him, then he does not heal our land which is to make us prosper”.

“Oh, I get it now coach, I see how I have behaved,” Jimmy said, “do you think that God would forgive me?”



“I know he would Jimmy, for as long as you humble yourself before Him, God will hear your prayers.

Not only did Jimmy pray to God that day, but he led the whole team in a prayer and they asked God to forgive them all.