



Disc 18 ~ Episode 1 Africa ~ Rugby



Video Summary

South Africa is the backdrop for our lesson on teamwork. The Hilton College 2nd Rugby team invited Chad to participate with them in a pre-game scrimmage before their battle against rival school Kearsney. This Hilton-Kearsney rivalry is one that has been going for over 100 years.

As these guys pound Chad into submission, the real focus is on the upcoming game. Having trained as a team for months, their combined efforts as a well-oiled team are about to be put to the test. Will the team prevail or will the team be defeated because they choose to play this game as individuals?



Icebreaker

Miraculous Escape?

(18 December 2005, South Africa) Two muggers were working a crowd. They had just taken a cell phone and purse from a couple at knifepoint, when the woman screamed. The muggers sprinted away. But one of the muggers was out of shape.

As he watched his compatriot recede into the distance, he felt a stabbing pain in his side, and knew he could run no further. Then he spotted a high fence, and that, at least, he could manage to climb.

He put on a burst of speed, and leapt the fence. Sure enough, no one followed. But he had failed to take into consideration a very important fact. He was at the Bloemfontein Zoo. Just as he was congratulating himself on his foolproof escape, he realized that the other side of the fence was a 10-meter drop into a cage of bored Bengal tigers! The tigers wasted no time in treating the nearest fool as their own little play toy. The mauled body of the youthbytes.org

mugger was not noticed until noon. A zoo spokesperson said that the tigers had been fed the previous afternoon; or else they would have left no evidence behind.



Primary Lesson

Teamwork is essential to true success in life, especially when you are pursuing a vision for God. Our society teaches us that we should be self sufficient and that we don't really need other people to help us succeed. The Bible, however, teaches that working in partnership with others is the only way we can have success on all fronts. There is no greater example of this principle than participating in a sports team. Teams are made up of different people who have different skill levels and abilities. Sure, each team member is good, in their respected fields, but when you combine these talents together under one unified banner, the accomplishments that are made together, are greater than could ever be accomplished alone.

Many people shrink away from team sports and for many different reasons, but one of the most common reasons is pride. People sometimes feel they are way better than others on the team, or conversely, they believe they have nothing to offer. God is not willing to share His glory with any man, regardless of how impressive they may be. God knows that a team environment, or an environment of submission to a greater goal, is the only way that man can truly know what it means to win and receive glory. Jesus made this clear throughout His teachings. The body of Christ is diverse and each part has a specific purpose. No one part is able to function without the other. Each member is valuable as long as they know their function and maintain the motivation for the whole team to win.



Facts, Figures & Illustrations

Rugby

Rugby football started at Rugby School in the city of Rugby in Warwickshire, England.

Rugby was an amateur game, meaning that players could not be paid to play, until 1995.

The very first international rugby match was between England and Scotland.

A 'try' is so called because originally the act of touching the ball down over the opposition's line then enabled the team to try kicking a rugby ball through the goal posts (later called a conversion).

The game of Rugby football was not 'invented' by William Webb Ellis in a flash of inspiration. It actually evolved very slowly over decades with many schoolboys contributing ideas. Unfortunately many people prefer to hear the Webb Ellis myth because it sounds more exciting!

Points are awarded for scoring a try or kicking a goal. A try, which is worth 5 points, is scored when the ball is grounded by a player on the attacking team within the opponent's in-goal area. A goal is scored by kicking the ball over the crossbar of the opponent's goal while remaining between the posts.

A typical passage of rugby takes the following form: the team in possession of the ball moves the ball up the field in an effort to ground the ball over the opponents' goal-line in order to score a try until such time as the ball carrier is tackled. They then form a ruck in order to win the ball back. This process repeats until one team loses possession, makes a mistake that violates the Laws of the game, moves off the field of play or a try or goal is scored.

Tries are the main form of scoring, and the primary aim of most teams is to score tries. Drop goals and penalty kicks are usually augmenters, a safer option against a steadfast defense or to punish ill-disciplined opposition. On some (usually rare) occasions, a team may be awarded a penalty try, if their opponents commit a foul which is deemed by the referee to have prevented a probable try, for example collapsing a scrum or maul close to the try line.



Key Scriptures

(From NKJV, unless otherwise noted)

Amos 3:3 ~ *Can two walk together, unless they are agreed?*

2 Timothy 2:3 ~ *You therefore must endure[a] hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.*

Proverbs 16:18 ~ *Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.*

1 Corinthians 11:1 ~ *Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.*

Proverbs 18:24 ~ *A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.*

Galatians 2:20 ~ *I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.*

Mathew 5:11 ~ *Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake.*

1 Peter 5:8 ~ *Be sober, be vigilant; because[a] your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*

Hebrews 12:1 ~ *Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.*

Habakkuk 2:2 ~ *Then the LORD answered me and said: "Write the vision and make it plain on tablets, that he may run who reads it."*

1 Peter 2:13 ~ *Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme...*

1 Peter 1:7 ~ *that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ.*

Deuteronomy 32:30 ~ *How could one man chase a thousand, or two put ten thousand to flight...*



Complimentary Story

Teamwork: Miracle on ice

The story begins with Herb Brooks, NCAA coach and student of international hockey. He spent the 1970s as head coach at the University of Minnesota, leading the team to three NCAA titles. He was known for having a prickly personality and was fanatical in the preparation of his teams. Brooks was chosen to prepare and coach the 1980 Olympic ice hockey team.

The USSR, emerging from several major defeats in the mid-1970s, was back on top of the hockey world going into the 1980 Olympic Games at Lake Placid. There was no matching the Europeans in skill. So Brooks emphasized speed, conditioning and discipline. Regional and college rivalries ran high among the players, most of whom came from Minnesota or Massachusetts. Brooks worked to unite them, often against himself. He challenged them physically, but also verbally, questioning whether they were good enough, tough enough, worthy of the task. A few confrontations ended in shouting matches.

At Lake Placid, Team USA began tentatively against Sweden, but a last-minute goal by Bill Baker salvaged a 2-2 tie. A 7-3 win over Czechoslovakia boosted confidence. The momentum grew with victories against Norway and Romania and a 4-2 comeback win over Germany. The Soviets went undefeated in their group and the group standings set up the scenario the Americans had been hoping to avoid: their first opponent in the medal round was the USSR.

While most recollections focus on the scoring heroics of Eruzione and Johnson, the American triumph would not have been possible without their goalie Craig. The Soviets came out flying, out-shooting the Americans by a wide margin. The goalie kept his team in the game, down 2-1 as the first period drew to a close but it seemed only a matter of time before the Soviets would add to their lead.

The first sign of an upset in the making came at the end of the first period. With time running out, Dave Christian took a long shot. Tretiak stopped it easily, but kicked out a rebound. The Soviet defensemen, expecting the buzzer, seemed to let up on the play. Johnson crashed between them and scored. The Soviets regrouped, and were even more dominant in the second period. The Americans managed just two shots on goal, while Craig fended off waves of attackers before Alexander Maltsev scored on a breakaway. The Soviets, having carried the play for two periods, had only a 3-2 lead to show for it.

In the final 20 minutes, a pillar of the Brooks strategy -speed- came to the fore. The Americans pulled even on a power play goal, Johnson firing home a loose puck fumbled by a Soviet defenseman. Another defensive mistake created the history-making moment: Vasily Pervukin's clearing pass was stopped by Pavelich. Eruzione scooped it up, skating into the high slot and throwing a 25-foot wrist shot past the Russian goalie. USA 4 - USSR 3.

As the Soviets mounted a final charge, broadcaster Al Michaels delivered the most famous call in American sports: "Eleven seconds. You got ten seconds, the countdown going on right now. Five seconds left in the game! Do you believe in miracles? Yes!"



Discussion Questions

1. Discuss teamwork and the reasons why people don't want to be on a team? Why are teams sports popular and what are the benefits of a team sport versus an individual sport?
2. Discuss the issue of submission to authority when on a team and how disobedience to a coach can harm the team. How can disobeying authority lead to problems in other areas of life.
3. Discuss what it means to fall prey to "friendly fire." How do you react and how do you feel when you get wounded by a member of your own team, or when someone in authority mistreats you?