

Play Loved, Take the Charge & More Grace

I don't know about you, but I'm really excited about this upcoming season. I honestly feel the Lord is going to do some great stuff. A lot of new faces and the expectations are high. The team even has a new theme this year, Lifftoff. It seems very appropriate for where I prayfully feel you all are headed, both on and off the court!!! Even us the NBA Chaplains, for the first time as a group have a theme. It is Pray Loved, Take the Charge, More Grace. This summer at Summer League we as a collective met and during one of our sessions, we heard a message from Coach Mo. During it we heard clearly from the Lord, the message of Play Loved, Take the Charge, More Grace. So, during the season, here and in other arena's, know you will keep hearing about this.

When you think about taking a charge, I think it might be the most selfless play in the game. Think about it? You first have to quickly assess the situation and decide you are willing to take the charge. From there, you have to get into position. You have to place yourself in the path of the opposing player and brace for impact. You purposely take this hit so that a foul will be called on the opposing player, which will benefit your team. The benefit will be that a change of possession will take place and your team receives the ball.

Think about it. By you purposely getting in the way and taking the physical contact, you cause a change to take place that helps your team. When we think about it, Jesus took the ultimate charge. His willingness to take the physical punishment and death for us and our sins, it caused the ultimate change to happen. Him taking the charge gives us the opportunity to be forgiven of our sins, have a new life in Christ and eternal home with our Lord and Savior. Jesus was willing to take the charge.

John 18: 4-9 Jesus Arrested

⁴ Jesus, knowing all that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, "Who is it you want?"⁵ "Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "I am he," Jesus said. (And Judas the traitor was standing there with them.)⁶ When Jesus said, "I am he," they drew back and fell to the ground.⁷ Again he asked them, "Who is it you want?" "Jesus of Nazareth," they said.⁸ Jesus answered, "I told you that I am he. If you are looking for me, then let these men go."⁹ This happened so that the words he had spoken would be fulfilled: "I have not lost one of those you gave me."^[a]

John 18: 29-32, 37-40 Jesus Before Pilate

²⁹ So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?"³⁰ "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you."³¹ Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."³² "But we have no right to execute anyone," they objected. This took place to fulfill what Jesus had said about the kind of death he was going to die.

LIFE Huddle: Getting together to talk through issues of life

³⁷ “You are a king, then!” said Pilate. Jesus answered, “You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.”³⁸ “What is truth?” retorted Pilate. With this he went out again to the Jews gathered there and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”³⁹ But it is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Do you want me to release ‘the king of the Jews’?”⁴⁰ They shouted back, “No, not him! Give us Barabbas!” Now Barabbas had taken part in an uprising.

As we see John 18:, this wasn't an accident. Jesus knew what was going to happen. He purposely put himself in position to take the charge and be captured/arrested. He even asked them who they were looking for and said “I am he”. He put himself in position for us, knowing what was to come!!! On top of that everyone involved in the situation knew he was innocent, even the one who was punishing him. All of this was an intentional act, taking the charge. God's love for us is that he took the charge, stepped in the way, took the punishment and death for the good of the team and his people. Selfless love!!!

Like a possession change takes place in a game. A possessional change took place on the cross, when Jesus died. The battle was won. And because of this amazing love, a possessional change can take place in our lives when we accept Christ as our Lord and Savior. We are a new creation that is no longer on the defensive, but on offensive side of the ball. We are forgiven of our sins and get the gift of the Holy Spirt working in, through and for us!!! And giving us gifts like the fruits of the spirt.

P2R (Point 2 Remember):

Just like Jesus took the charge Jesus often times he calls us to take the same charge. We will talk about that all season. Sometimes it might be to forgive or love on someone not deserving. Other times it can be to give of our time, resources or talent. In the scripture below we see it is just to tell others of the charge that was taken, and because of this amazing love we have the possible gift of salvation. Again Jesus took the Charge, so we have to ask ourselves, are we willing to Take The Charge??!!!!

Matthew 28:16 The Great Commission

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples left for Galilee, going to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him—but some of them doubted!¹⁸ Jesus came and told his disciples, “I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,^[b] baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

Worship Song:

Yet by Maverick City

Rap Song:

No Weapon by Scottie Wop, Lecrae & Fred Hammond