

Week 35 – Conscientious Day 2

Conscientious Grandson

Our grandson came to live with us for a couple of years after graduating from high school in Houston.

We lived in rural Oklahoma off of a dirt road.

Our grandson's single greatest quality that was developed was his quality of conscientiousness.

He got stuck in our driveway and dug "ruts". I told him he needed to fix them. He completely dug up the "ruts" and spread the dirt and grass as if it had never been disturbed. Conscientious.

His grandmother told him to pick up sticks from the 2 acre yard so she could mow. She felt bad when she told me he picked up all the sticks, even the small twigs. Conscientious.

He has gone on to be all All-American football player and is presently playing professional football. Conscientious.

When you hear "the devil is in the details", what does that mean to you?

If you take time to do a task correctly, what is the benefit? What is the result of not doing it correctly?

Week 35 – Conscientious

Day 3

Coach Wooden

John Wooden was definitely one of the greatest coaches ever. He is the only person in the basketball Hall of Fame as both a player and as a coach. His UCLA basketball teams won ten NCAA Championships, seven of them in consecutive years. Coach Wooden was a believer in controlling the little things. If you took care of the little things—if you took care of that which you could control—then you were successful, no matter the score.

The first thing Coach Wooden did each basketball season was demonstrate how he wanted the players to put on their socks each and every time: Carefully roll each sock down over the toes, ball of the foot, arch, and around the heel, then pull the sock up snug so there will be no wrinkles of any kind. Carefully check with fingers for any folds or creases in the sock, starting at the toes and sliding the hand along the side of and under the foot, smoothing the sock out as the fingers passed over it. Pay special attention to the heel because that is where wrinkles are most likely. Do conscientiously, not casually; you can have no folds, wrinkles or creases of any kind in the sock.

This might seem trivial, but Coach Wooden had a very practical reason for being meticulous. Wrinkles, folds and creases can cause blisters. Blisters interfere with performance during practice and games. Since there was a way to reduce blisters, something the players could control, it was Coach Wooden's responsibility to see that they did it. Otherwise, his players would not be doing everything possible to prepare. Is there any doubt why they were so well prepared? If you take care of the little things, the big things will often take care of themselves.

How important are blisters?

What does this tell you about Coach Wooden?

Week 35 – Conscientious Day 4

For Want of a Nail

The year was 1485 and the battle on Bosworth Field would determine control of England. The armies of Henry, the Earl of Richmond, were approaching.

King Richard III summoned his troops and called for his best horse. As the horse was being prepared for the King, the blacksmith discovered he did not have enough iron to complete the task. He was able to secure three of the horse's shoes but he lacked the materials needed to make nails for the fourth. Having no alternative, he affixed the fourth shoe as was possible without nails.

The king led his troops into battle. The shoes held as Richard continuously rallied and directed his men. Suddenly out of the corner of his eye, the king noted a weak spot developing in the battle line. As he wheeled abruptly to address it, the fourth shoe broke loose.

The horse stumbled, King Richard fell. His startled horse bolted, and both Richard and England were soon in the grip of Henry's troops. Hence, George Herbert' famous line,

“For want of a nail, a shoe was lost. For want of a shoe, a horse was lost. For want of a horse, a battle was lost. For want of a battle, a kingdom was lost. And all for want of a nail.”

What is the point of this story?

How does this affect your life?

Week 35-Conscientious

Day 5

Evaluate Your Week

We've been focused on "Conscientious" this week, how did you do? For every goal not met, explain what happened and what you can do differently next week to have success.

If you completed goals, what did you learn?

Write down in complete sentences, something that you learned about "Conscientious" this week.

Of the three stories, "Grandson", "Coach Wooden", "For Want of a Nail", which had the greatest impact on you? Why?

Demonstration:

For each day of the week, give yourself either "+" if you demonstrated this quality or "-" if you did not.

M _____ T _____ W _____ Th _____ F _____ Sa _____ Su _____