

Scott's Thoughts by Scott Deneen, Pastor to Youth and Families

Dear Friends,

I just recently discovered 'youtube.com' on the Internet. Youtube is a website devoted to videos - family vacations, birthday parties, car racing, music videos, etc.. Whatever you can think of, it's on there. Old eighties music videos? Yea, there on there (big hair and all!). Soccer highlights? Of course - and you should see some of the goals!! I've been like a kid in candy store!

When I sit down at the computer, I brainstorm about what to watch. The other night I thought... "Michael Jordan highlights." And sure enough, there were several highlight reels. Unbelievable is all I can say. There were highlights of him jumping over people to dunk, squeezing through two defenders to do reverse lay-ups, throwing shots over his head after getting fouled only to watch them drop for two points. You get the picture. Just an amazing athlete doing amazing things with a basketball.

That makes me think... if I were the owner of an NBA Team and wanted to win a lot, would I put Michael Jordan on my team? Let's see, he's... Five-time NBA Most Valuable Player; Ten-time All-NBA First Team selection; Selected in 1996 as one of the "50 Greatest Players in NBA History"; six NBA championships; Six-time NBA Finals Most Valuable Player; Entering 2002-03, ranked first in NBA history in scoring average (31.0 ppg), second in steals (2,391), fourth in points (30,652) and in field-goals made (11,513), fifth in free-throws made (7,061), sixth in field-goals attempted (23,010) and eighth in free-throws attempted (8,448); Holds the NBA record for most seasons leading the league in scoring (10); Holds the NBA record for most consecutive games scoring in double-digits (842); Holds the NBA record for most seasons leading the league in field-goals made (10) and attempted (10); etc. You get the picture, right? [the list could go on for another page!!!]

So, yes, I'd pick him for my team! Although all this greatness would last a life time at best or 10- 15 yrs. if average, yet I'd still want him on my side.

Now, if we were to apply this analogy to the spiritual realm, could anyone match Jordan for ability, effectiveness, worth, and grace. Is there anyone out there who has the drive to win, the fortitude to stick with it when times get tough, the brilliance to accomplish great things?

Absolutely! And I would argue there's someone better than Michael Jordan. Jesus. Compare these stats if you will... Jordan averaged 84% from the free throw line and 51% from the floor; Jesus kept the law of God 100%. Jordan was 5-time NBA MVP and 6-time Finals MVP; Jesus is Heaven's MVP. These may sound like strange as comparisons, but the point is, as amazing as Jordan's stats are, they do NOT hold a candle to Jesus'. I used to play basketball, and I had games where everything I threw up went in. BUT I have never lived a day without sinning at least a thousand times. It's just impossible. But Jesus did it His whole life!

My point is this: As great as Michael Jordan was/is, he can't help me overcome my sin problem, make me right with God, give me his righteousness (b/c he doesn't have any); endear God to me, or raise me from the dead. He's an AWESOME basketball player, but I need more than that. And if I would pay big money to have him on my NBA Team, how much more sense does it make to want Jesus to be on my side [or, really, to be included on His Team]?

Maybe Michael Jordan is not your man, maybe LeBron James is, or someone else. Whoever you admire is fine - Jesus can stand any comparison. However, if Jordan is disposable, Jesus is CERTAINLY not. NBA finals can be won without Jordan, but Heaven shall not be entered without Jesus. Therefore, for those seeking eternal victory, Jesus is a "must have" player.

Jesus is reigning on His throne as King of Kings and Lord of lords even now, and invites us to rule and reign with Him as His faithful subjects. Sounds like a good deal me to me - much better than hiring Jordan for a few years!

God bless you as you think through this message!!

Pastor Scott

Upcoming Youth Events

- **Youth Group**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
Middle & High School
- **Imagebearers**
Sundays 6:00—7:30pm
1st—5th grade
- **Operation Christmas Child** November 22nd
- **Live Christmas Scenes**
December 21st & 22nd



Check out more photos by James Guffey on our website www.fpcstanley.org

Kids Quotes of the Lord's Prayer...

3-year-old, Reese:

"Our Father, Who does art in heaven, Harold is His Name. Amen"

One particular four-year-old prayed:

"And forgive us our trash baskets as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets"

3-year-old, Caitlin:

"Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us some e-mail."

Basketball News

League Day

Sunday, Nov. 12th.

Ask your coach what worship service your team plans to attend: the 8:30am service or 11:00am service. Players should wear their jerseys! Our Sunday School hour begins at 9:45am. We hope to see you there!



Finale

Saturday, Dec. 2nd

Mark your calendar!
Exact time TBD.

Your Parenting Style?

Parenting isn't easy. Layered on your child's own break-the-mold individuality is your parenting style (and possibly your spouse's conflicting parenting style). For simplicity, we can break down parenting styles into four main types. Which one do you use in raising your child?

Authoritarian Parents

These parents are high on control and rules and low on warmth and emotional interaction with their children. Authoritarian parenting is likely to produce obedient children as long as parents are around. However, when these children are out of their parent's sight, they often engage in reckless behavior; they haven't been allowed to absorb a moral code from their parents, but have had one externally forced upon them. When the opportunity presents itself in later adolescence or early adulthood, they run from this oppression like mice from a cage. Too often, they run into danger.

Buddy Parents

These parents are high on warmth and low on control and rules. They're more like peers than parents. Adolescents from these homes often

perceive themselves as equals who don't need to listen to adults. Rather than actually becoming buddies, these children grow to resent their parents for not being parents. Unfortunately, this pattern is represented by a growing number of parents, and their children are growing up with remarkable issues of insecurity, anger, lack of moral code, and lack of direction.

Authoritative Parents
High levels of both emotional warmth and disciplinary direction mark this style of parenting. A study reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* indicates that this parenting style is the most effective deterrent to adolescent risk behavior, even above the mere presence of a parent in the home at key times.¹ These kids develop two important things that they take with them into their later years. One is the security of knowing that they're loved and someone care about what they do. The other is that the children develop and internal moral compass that they carry with them at all times, because their parents haven't rigidly forced a long list of rules, but rather have consistently trained their children in some nonnegotiable general principles and helped them understand why these matter.

Laissez-Faire Parents

These parents--being low on warmth *and* low on control--are the extreme of nonparents. They let kids make their own rules and offer no correction in the face of troubling behavior and they show no real emotional concern for their children. Obviously, this is not good. Often these kids become very assertive because they realize they have to be. Their parents aren't going to make a way for them. But this assertiveness is typically very antisocial, expressed in gang violence for boys and in early child-bearing for girls. Their parents don't affirm them, so they have to tell the world they matter. Guns and babies are how they do it.

Lost and Found? If you're looking for an item left in the gym, try this approach of finding it:

1. Look on and under the table just inside the front entrance to the gym.
2. Look on the scorekeepers table.
3. Your coach or a referee can unlock the Sports Ministry closet to see if the item was placed inside.
4. Call the church office to see if someone turned the item in to the office staff.



Photos by James Guffey

Hebrews 13:5

For God has said,
"I will never leave
you, I will never
abandon you."

Election Day
Nov. 7th

First
Presbyterian
Church
Stanley, North Carolina

Presenting Everyone Complete in Christ

Morning Service

8:30 Worship Service

9:45 Sunday School

11:00 Worship Service

Evening Service

6:30 Worship Service

Call us at 704.263.4275

Visit us online at

www.fpcstanley.org

Team Rosters
Game Schedule
Parent's Corner

Children need parents who are CRAZY about them!