

River of Life, Super Bowl Family Night Devotional!!!

Listening to the coach...

James 1:23-24 - For if you just listen and don't obey, it is like looking at your face in a mirror but doing nothing to improve your appearance. You see yourself, walk away, and forget what you look like. (NLT)

Matthew 7:21 - Knowing the correct password -- saying "Master, Master," for instance -- isn't going to get you anywhere with me. What is required is serious obedience -- doing what my Father wills. (MSG)

Tonya Butler, place kicker for the University of West Alabama Tigers football team, accomplished a feat one recent weekend. On the opening play of the game, Butler made a twenty-seven yard field goal. She became the first female to convert successfully a field goal for extra points in the history of the National Collegiate Athletic Association.

Tonya is my next-door neighbor. We've known each other since her playing days at Middle Georgia College. She came over to see me one night shortly afterwards, and shared her frustrations about being a female in a male-dominated sport, with the media attention and the criticism. As we sat and talked, *a comparison with my own life as a Christian came to mind*. Tonya kicks a football. She does what her coach says. She gets her job done.

→ In the last several years, as a Christian, have I gotten my job done?

→ Have I done what my Coach says? Sure, I can talk the talk, and write the words, but how much walking the walk have I done? Have you ever thought about that?

John 14:15 - If you love me, you will obey what I command. (NIV)

We Christians can say we believe in God, but how much will talk do for us in life? Saying we believe is all well and good, but today's Scripture verses tell us that it is important to *obey His will*. In getting the job done as Christ has prescribed, we are obeying His will.

🔗 **For Discussion:**

→ How do I know what God is asking of me?

→ What are some simple things that I can do to put into practice "obedience to the Lord"?

→ Who is my daily 'coach'? / Who are my teammates? / What is my playing field?

Prayer: Lord, please help us to *walk the walk*, as well as *talk the talk* -- to obey whatever You ask of us. Thank You for the opportunities that You give us to get the job done. Help us to be more concerned about faithfulness to you rather than our feelings about it. Amen.

(Main thesis: by Rebecca Holland)