

Week 16—Empowering

Read

On New Year's Day, 1929, Georgia Tech played UCLA in the Rose Bowl. In that game, a man named Roy Riggles recovered a fumble for UCLA. Somehow Riggles became confused and started running 65 yards in the wrong direction. One of his own teammates finally outdistanced him and tackled him just before he scored for the opposing team. When UCLA attempted to punt, Tech blocked the kick and scored a safety, which was the ultimate margin of victory.

That strange play came in the first half, and everyone watching the game was asking the same question, "What will the coach do with Riggles in the second half?" The players filed off the field and went into the locker room and sat down on the benches and the floor—all but Riggles. He put a towel around his shoulders, sat down and put his face in his hands.

A coach usually has a great deal to say to his team during halftime, but that day Coach Price was quiet. No doubt he was trying to decide what to do with Riggles. Then the timekeeper came in and announced that there were only three minutes left till playtime. Price looked at the team and said simply, "Men, the same team that played the first half will start the second."

The players got up and started out—all but Riggles. He didn't budge. The coach looked back and called to him again. Still he didn't move. Coach Price went over to where Riggles sat and said, "Roy, didn't you hear me? The same team that played the first half will start the second." Then Riggles looked up and said, "Coach, I can't do it to save my life. I've ruined you. I've ruined the University of California. I've ruined myself. I couldn't face that crowd in the stadium to save my life."

The Coach said, "Riggles, get up and go on back. The game is only half over." And Roy Riggles went back, and those Georgia Tech players will tell you that they never saw a man play football like Roy Riggles played in that second half. What a coach! ¹

Reflect

*Worry is a heavy load, but a kind word cheers you.
(Proverbs 12:25 NCV)*

Ephesians 4:11-12—“And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ.”

“If you want one year of prosperity, grow grain. If you want ten years of prosperity, grow trees. If you want one hundred years of prosperity, grow people.” ²

Respond

Empowering students for ministry opportunities many times begins with smiles and simple words of encouragement (i.e., You're special; God has great plans for your life; God made you for a special reason, etc.) How have you encouraged your students this past week? How has the Lord encouraged you? In what areas of your life do you feel you need encouragement?

Write your thoughts here:

Prayer Requests for yourself, your students, and others with whom you serve in ministry:

¹Source Unknown

² Quote taken from Saddleback Community Church's Children's Ministry Values.

