

Rally in Support Morgan Hester

In the movie *Coach Carter*, the audience meets a high school basketball player named Mr. Cruz. Mr. Cruz, a former player for Coach, arrives at practice asking what he must do to play for the team again. It is here that Coach Carter asks him to complete an impossible task. Coach states that Mr. Cruz owes him 2500 push-ups and 1000 suicide runs within a week's time. The results of that week determine Mr. Cruz's spot on the roster. When the week is up, the team gathers to hear the fate of the exhausted and sweat drenched Mr. Cruz. Coach Carter announces that Mr. Cruz lacks five hundred push-ups and eighty suicide runs, and without these, he is not welcome back on the team.

In Exodus 17:8-16, the Israelites, having just escaped from Egypt, find themselves face-to-face with the Amalekites. Joshua has been tasked by Moses to take his men out to battle. As Joshua leads the charge below, Moses, Aaron, and Hur ascend to the hilltop where Moses will raise the staff of God. As the battle rages, Moses lifts his hands towards God. When Moses' hands are raised, Israel prevails, but when Moses' hands are lowered, Amalek prevails. As the fight continues, Moses keeps his hands raised to the Lord until, slowly, his hands become heavy and tired. Moses is facing an impossible task. He knows that if he seeks relief for his weary hands, Amalek will defeat his people.

Have you ever come face-to-face with an impossible task? Have you ever battled with a temptation? Have you ever fought and struggled through gut-wrenching situations? Have you ever had moments where you saw or felt defeat?

After Coach Carter announces Mr. Cruz's defeat, each player on the team steps up, one by one, and helps Mr. Cruz complete his task. They prove to Coach Carter that success or failure happens as a team. The same thing happens in Exodus 17. When Moses' hands are too heavy for him to hold up himself, Aaron and Hur step in to help. They place a stone underneath Moses, and they each hold up one of his hands. They continue to support Moses until the end of the battle. Because of this team effort, the Israelites defeat the Amalekites.

God shows us that battles are fought and won alongside others. When the trials of this life weigh heavy on some, God's people must rally in support. With outstretched arms and hands, we must lift. With swift feet, we must run. With open, loving hearts, we must serve, and with sincere lips, we must pray. The saying is true, "We rise by lifting others."