READY 2 Consider it a great joy, my brothers, whenever you experience various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 But endurance must do its complete work, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing. James 1:2-4.

SET Lately, it seems like there has been a lot of sports scandals at the amateur and professional levels. In most, if not all of the situations, there was a key moment of decision when the allegations surfaced. The choice was between character and reputation. Ideally, each of us would like to have both – strong character and a good reputation. However, circumstances often force us to choose one or the other. If I choose character, then my integrity will lead me to do the right thing, perhaps even at the expense of the reputation of my organization, family or myself. If I allow the most important issue to be how something will look to others, then I will immediately go into damage control and take actions to limit any news getting out.

"Be more concerned with your character than your reputation, because your **character** is what you really are, while your **reputation** is merely what others think you are.” --Coach John Wooden The apostle Paul states clearly in Galatians that he is not striving to please people, but God. You will have opportunities throughout your life to uphold both your reputation and your character. Sometimes you might have to choose one. May you always desire to please God and make the choice that honors Him.

GO 1. What matters more to you: the opinion of others or the opinion of God? 2. When you do wrong, are you more focused on the wrongdoing or on getting caught? 3. Could you be satisfied if God were pleased with you but everyone in the world was displeased? 4. What if everyone in the world was pleased with you, but God was displeased?

Examples:

1. you say you touched the base when you did not.
2. You tell a teammate to pick it up; when you are not working hard
3. ??

OVERTIME Lord, I am tempted to point the finger and judge others. Help me to look into my own heart. I want to play and live for you and seek to please you. Give me the strength to right my wrongs, even when it may make me look bad in the eyes of others.

