



Coach Approach Ministries Podcast

Episode 79: How Coaching Has Brought Me Closer to Jesus

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Brian Miller: One of the toughest things for new, and not so new, coaches is finding paying clients. You need paying clients to get better as a coach, and especially if you want to be an ICF certified coach. People don't always realize that bartering is an accepted form of payment by the International Coach Federation. That's why we put together the Coaching Exchange. The Coaching Exchange is your ticket to paid coaching hours with really good clients. In the Coaching Exchange, you get 40 hours of paid coaching experience, and you help other coaches do the same. Experience matters. Go to www.coachapproachministries.org/coachexchange to find out more.

[Intro Music]

Brian: I'm Brian Miller, Strategic Director for Coach Approach Ministries, CAM for short, and I'm joined here today by the leadership team of Coach Approach Ministries, Mr. Chad Hall and Mr. Bill Copper. Merry Christmas guys. How are you doing?

Bill Copper: Hello, hello. Feliz Navidad.

Chad Hall: Don't be throwing that Spanish on us, Bill.

Bill: We have an international audience.

Chad: We do.

Bill: I'm trying to add a little culture to this bunch.

Brian: Well done.

Chad: Well, good luck. Good luck.

Brian: As we finish up 2017, we wanted to come together for a Christmas episode. We are a Christian organization, and Christ is the center of what we do and certainly, at Christmas, we don't just want to acknowledge that. We want to dive in to that as deeply as we can, and we've come up with a topic today to discuss called "How has Coaching Brought You Closer to Jesus?" I know these guys, and I know it has brought them closer to Jesus. It certainly brought me close to Jesus, to understanding who he is, how he wants the relationship to work, what he wants to do with that. So, which one of you guys wants to start?

Bill: Brian, I'm happy to jump in here. You asked us to contemplate this question. I think it's really simple and basic, certainly as we teach others about coaching and about how it's a good way to be with people, a good, godly, Christian way to be with people. I'm reminded that coaches, in a lot of ways, acted the way Jesus acted many times for many of the same reasons. I guess I'm thinking particularly around the idea that Jesus asked a lot of questions. We talk about that in our coach training, about how Jesus asked questions, and coaches ask questions for the same reasons. I think as I think about maybe in those times where I'm coaching someone, and I'm tempted to interject, or I'm tempted to tell, or I'm tempted to teach, or in some way transfer what I know and understand to the other person. I'm reminded that if anyone ever had the authority, the omnipotence, the wisdom to do that, it would have been Christ. Jesus certainly knew everything. He knew what people would say. He knew what they were thinking. He had that ability and right, and still, he chose not to do that many, many times.

Many times, Jesus asked questions, and I ask myself a lot, "Why?" If he already knew the answers, if he already knew what people were thinking, he knew what was in our hearts, why ask questions? It occurs to me that our creator knows how we were created. He knows our nature, and Chad probably learned this directly from Jesus, people don't do what they're told. They do what they tell themselves to do, so Jesus asks questions in order to get people to think, to contemplate, to come up with their own ideas, hopes, dreams, solutions because he knew that's how we're wired. It's a good reminder to me, as I'm coaching people, I can take that same stance. I don't have that authority. I certainly don't have the wisdom, the omnipotence, the omniscience that Jesus had to be able to speak into people's situations, but the one who did chose not to do so, so why do I think that I should? So, it's just a great reminder to me that coaching draws me closer to Christ because I act like he does at times. I use some of the same motivations, some of the same beliefs about other people that Jesus used.

Another way to say it, it also helps me to ask that of myself. When I'm thinking about an issue, I'm thinking through an issue, or thinking about a particular thing I should do, or a choice I should make, I can ask that question, "What's the question Jesus would be asking, and why would he be asking that?" He would be asking me so that I could contemplate, I could think about it, use what he's already put in to me in terms of wisdom, knowledge, experience, understanding, preference, all those kind of things to formulate an answer, a solution. So, why not ask those questions of myself as I'm thinking through those things as well. So, I guess as I think about Christmas and about the impact that coaching has had on me and how it draws me closer to Jesus, I think that's the thing that comes to my mind is that it helps me think about the way that Jesus interacted with us, think about how I can interact with others in that same way.

Brian: Yeah. It strikes me that for thousands of years before Jesus came to Earth, God had told them what to do, told people what to do, and they just simply failed to do it. They had a choice. They understood. It was clearly communicated, but there was something missing, something not quite enough. So, Jesus came down in the fullness of God to create that relationship for us, to try to get us over the edge, to help draw us out through that decision.

Bill: It almost seems like our coach training materials where we talk about some of the whys of coaching, and why's coaching effective and why it's powerful, comes right out of that biblical narrative, that even when it's God speaking, people don't do what they're told. So, why would we think that when it's us speaking that would be any different.

Brian: That's a good word. Chad, any thoughts on that?

Chad: That's great. I'm sure I could say a lot of things about that, but I don't think I could add any intelligence to what Bill's already said. I think that's perfect.

Brian: Chad, how do you feel like coaching has brought you closer to Jesus?

Chad: I think I'd kind of frame it in everybody I coach is trying to get somewhere. They're trying to do something, accomplish something, but all of this is around trying to get somewhere in life, and oftentimes, that place you're trying to get to is really very internal. They're trying to become a certain kind of person. So, as I've coached people to uncover, "What is it you want? Where would that get you in life, and what kind of person would you have to be to be at that place in life, and what about that is valuable to you?" All of those kinds of questions that we ask as coaches. Of course, every question you ask of someone else, you're really asking of yourself as well. Coaching has really forced me, both when I'm the coach, and when I'm being coached, it's forced me to ask and address important questions in life. Where am I? Where do I want to be? Who do I want to be? I think of it, Brian, in terms of what's my ultimate aim?

A lot of times, those sort of things, everything in between where we are and where we ultimately want to be, there's all kinds of crap in there. Things we long for, things we are kind of attracted to, there's all kinds of pitfalls and promises in between there, but boy, when I have to ask and address the ultimate kind of questions, man, that draws me to Jesus as a plain line. Not only who do I want to be ultimately, not only where do I want to be ultimately, but what does that mean for me today, this week, and this month, and this year. I would say coaching has really helped me be much more intentional about what's important in life and what that requires of me day in and day out. So, man, just the intentionality. I'm not naturally an intentional person, but boy, coaching has made me much more intentional. Yeah, but around the ultimate things in life is where it has really resonated. Especially, over the last couple of years.

Brian: What's changed in the last couple of years?

Chad: I don't know. I think it's probably been around maybe some of the research I've been doing could have some into that. It's probably just I'm a slow learner. I think for the first several years as a coach, I was happy just to help people set goals and reach them, and in the last few years, I've been much more intrigued with, yeah, but if you reach that goal, what is it ultimately getting you to? Therefore, is it a goal worth pursuing. So, I think I've just slowly had this awareness of, "You know, we probably don't know where we are headed ultimately." We don't have a clear sense of that like maybe we think we do. So, we really do need to ask and answer those kinds of questions. So, yeah, it's just been in the last few years that I've really been noticing that in my own coaching. I've been noticing that when I'm being coached, and man, it just feels so much more alive, so much more... I don't know if grounded is quite the right word, but I guess having that kind of alignment where we're aligning our lives with Jesus and what he calls us to. It brings a ton of certainty, and confidence, and a lot of optimism and hope as well.

Brian: I was thinking about how I would answer this question. How has coaching brought me closer to Jesus, and the word I think that I would focus on is partnership. That coaching requires a partnership where I bring something and the client brings something. We're not bringing the same thing, but there's something I'm doing with presence that helps them do better at what they bring. This idea of Jesus'

presence. I believe he wants to partner with us, and not in any sense of like we're equal partners, not in any way are we equal partners, but he brings something, and we bring something, and in that partnership, something happens, something's... I want to use the word magical. It's a good word. Something's mysterious. Something's different. So, I've always been a believer. I've always been an intellectual, a bit of a skeptic, and so, sometimes I probably try to over-intellectualize Christianity. It does make sense to me, but as I get older, certainly, I long for the presence of Christ and what that brings out in me and what that lets me get past, some obstacles that are short. They seem huge, but in the presence of Christ, the obstacles seem smaller. He certainly brings a presence. I don't know how to describe it any better than that, but I've learned so much about partnership with coaching, and even with Christ, and with other people. I think my relationships are a ton better because I realize there are things we do together, and I bring something, and they bring something, and how powerful that can be. Not just because I bring something that I think's better or authoritative, but just different. I just find that amazing, and it's stretched me a ton. A ton.

Chad: And you know, Brian, when you describe that partnership, and the kind of presence that Christ has, and that we have as coaches, it reminds me of each of us is a parent, and one of the things that draws us really close to God is being a parent because you recognize God's perspective kind of from the other side as the parent who really longs for the best for the children, and yet, can't control that. That partnership as a parent, there's a certain kind of partnership that you have to have, and when you partner as a parent, you kind of realize, oh, that's how God's trying to partner with me. Now maybe I can partner better with him as the child. That's similarly what you're describing in coaching where we're partnering with the people we coach, we realize, oh, that's kind of how God partners with us, trying to facilitate, trying to draw out, trying to help us clarify, take action without just straight up always telling us what to do. Boy, there's a much deeper appreciation for how he's trying to be present with us, probably let's us make room for that in a way that we just didn't know how to before we became the coach.

Brian: Yeah, and even in the Trinity itself, there's that relationship. It just breaks down so quickly when you try to talk about something so mysterious, but the one brings something, and it isn't just that one's all over the other one authoritatively, but they just act better together. Thinking gets better together when you can partner in thinking. There's just so many good things about that. Chad, what should these folks listening to this podcast expect in their partnership with us in 2018?

Chad: Wow. That's a nice transition. They should expect us to be like Jesus. No.

Brian: I didn't even mean in specifics like what's our strategy, what's our plan, but what's our hope?

Chad: I know. I'm teasing. I think the hope for 2018, and it builds on what we've been doing for several years with Coach Approach Ministries is folks can expect us to partner with them to help them be the best coach they can be in order to change the world. I mean, we have stayed true to that as kind of our mission and vision since we started. God works in a lot of different ways. We humbly say, coaching is one way God acts and operates in the world, but it is one, so we want to really pay attention to it. So, anybody out there who wants to be a coach or use coaching in a way that is going to improve the lives of others and express and expand God's kingdom, rest assured, you've got a partner in us. We're going to do our best to train, to equip, to mentor coach, to sometimes offer advice. A lot of times offer some, hopefully, powerful questions, and I just want people to know that when you look at 2018, whatever

dream God has stirred in you for your coaching ministry, or your coaching business, not only is God with you, but we're with you too. You don't have to feel like you're going it alone in 2018. You guys are the reason we are here. We look forward to how we can partner with you next year.

Brian: That's a good word, and I've loved podcasting through 2017. We've just had some great interviews, some great times just talking about coaching. I've enjoyed it so much, and I'm even more stoked about 2018. I've got a list of people I want to interview. I've got a list of topics that we want to talk about, and I think I'll have maybe 10 interviews recorded by the end of the year for 2018. So, just looking forward to it getting better and better, and we want to thank you for listening. If you weren't listening, this wouldn't be a very productive task, recording ourselves talking.

Chad: Everybody's got their role. Hey Brian, before you wrap things up, can we offer one more thing?

Brian: Yeah, yeah.

Chad: I'm sure the casual listener to this podcast already knows this, but just in case they don't, we just really need to point out what a tremendous job you do in creating and producing these podcasts. I mean, it is no small feat. One, it's no small feat to get us to be on the podcast given the time crunch that all three of us experience, but just the attention to detail, your commitment to the podcast, and the good that it creates in the world. Whenever I go do training, or I'm teaching a class online, or something like that, people will comment about the podcast, and I'm always saying, "Brian heads that up. He does a great job with that." Bill and I contribute, but there's no way Bill or I could do anything like this. This is really, just want everybody to know, an effort of Brian, and using the gifts that God's given you, and really, really appreciate it.

Bill: I'll amend to that, Chad and I have occasions to record podcasts for others and participate that way, and that's when it really shows how valuable you are in what you do, Brian. We both just really appreciate the level of quality you've brought to this aspect of coach approach ministries, and as he said, we certainly couldn't do it without you.

Brian: Well, those are kind words, and I'll go back to what I was talking about earlier. For me, it's about partnership, and I can tell the things that you both have brought into my life have raised me up, have made me better. So, any credit I'm getting, you guys got to get some credit too, for sure. Thanks so much.

Bill: Is that going to be in lieu of a Christmas present? I'm just trying to get clear here.

Brian: I'm going to get you the same thing I got you last year I think.

Bill: Awesome. Get me two of them.

Brian: We just want to say thanks to everybody for joining us. Don't miss any of our podcasts. You can subscribe to our podcast at iTunes, or at Overcast, or at Stitcher, or Google Play by searching for Coach Approach Ministries Podcast. We'll see you next week.

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