

Wet Eyes and Slow Walks
Revelation 21:4,
“And God will wipe away all their tears”

Maria and I have been asked to coach 7th and 8th grade volleyball. My daughter who plays for the high school heard the varsity coach mention that they did not have coaches. She explodes with, “Oh, my dad and mom played and coached”. With a big smile she told us this head-throbbing, heart-stopping announcement that the coaches were excited and going to ask us to be “coach”. I could end this devotional by saying that I was the one who had at that time the “wet eyes and slow walk”. Not true. But you could probably now make the case that I should have been after 3 days of practicing with a 30 year plus mind and body from when I “played” volleyball. Now I “pray” in volleyball. Funny how things change, spiritual discipline can come from fear, you know.

But today I had the painful responsibility of “cutting” players from the team. It has been long since I did this. In my world of church all volunteers are welcome regardless of the ability sometimes in spite of it. As I asked for the 5 girls to remain after the dismissal of practice, I could tell that fear was near. I told them for right now they would not play and then reiterated all the things about not quitting, practice, try again next year and all the other “ya right” jargon. But the pain came when they began to tear up. As they turned I watched slow walks back to their belongings knowing that they did not “belong” again. “Cut today”.

I had to put out of my mind the possible predicament that what took place in the last ten seconds might be held and remembered the rest of their lives. For me this burden of necessary occurrence is worse than losing the season because the group loses together. Getting cut is alone. Now it was my turn to have the wet eyes and slow walk.

How many of those “wet eyes and slow walks” have you had? Too many we respond without hesitation. They are usually all related with separation of some kind. We as creations were not made for separation but for unions at all times. So this day, time, and place for the girls move against their entire person. This adds to the already painful memory which will be played thousands of times on their heart’s DVD before the ejection button is hit. That is one tough truth.

I am so thankful that in the real eternal world, we will never be “cut” and made alone. This is true not for our lack or lots of abilities but from Another’s position given away. Christ took the slow walk with immeasurable tears as His eternal soul was “cut” for us. We must always remember that wet eyes and slow walks are not on heaven’s agenda. Ours is the abundance of acceptance, unlimited, by the Unlimited. Thank God! Yes, thank God.

Eyes in heaven have no ducts and all feet run to, not away. In fact, there is no “away”.