

As the head coach of the Atlanta Falcons, Jerry Glanville helped to take his team to the NFL playoffs in 1990. The Falcons defeated the New Orleans Saints in the wild card round and advanced to face the Washington Redskins the next week.

Washington held the home field advantage as the Falcons traveled north for the contest in RFK Stadium. The weather conditions were most difficult for a football game. Rain coupled with 40 mile per hour winds took away the passing game and turned the football field into a muddy quagmire.

Washington took the lead with two touchdowns in the second quarter. Atlanta's quarterback struggled. He could never plant his feet firmly enough to get his footing. He threw three interceptions before halftime. The second half was much the same. Jerry Glanville's Falcons lost 24-7.

Jerry has held a grudge against Joe Gibbs, the winning head coach from Washington for over three decades. Jerry explained: "I'm not a friend of Joe Gibbs. We don't talk. We ended up hating each other coaching. We don't even speak."<sup>i</sup>

Glanville believes he had the superior team and would have won the game if the field allowed for better footing for his star quarterback. He asked the groundskeeper to 'Turn on the pumps' which would have drained a lot of water from the hi-tech field, but the groundskeeper refused to do so until after the game was over. With the home-field advantage, and the purposefully muddy field, Washington was able to neutralize their opponent, a much faster team.

Both Joe Gibbs and Jerry Glanville left coaching in the NFL years ago to compete in NASCAR racing. But the sore feelings remain, and Glanville refuses to speak to Gibbs all these decades later.

These harsh feelings stand in stark contrast to our Gospel. Jesus invites us to forgive as the Lord has forgiven us. He tells us if we judge others harshly, then we will be judged accordingly. "For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you" (Lk 6:38).

Family feuds often start out with little things. If we hold onto hurt feelings, we can become very bitter. Like Glanville, we may refuse to talk and harbor ill feelings for decades. Hurt can boil over to hatred and we can be impaired for a lifetime. Jesus offers a different way. Forgive.

Jesus calls us to love our enemies. That often starts with forgiveness. In our weakness, we may want to hold onto a hurt and never let go. That is often more crippling to us, then the person we hold a grudge against. We must turn to God for the strength to forgive. It is helpful to pray the Lord's Prayer often and meditate on the call to forgive others as the Lord has forgiven us.

Another way we can ask for God's help is to remember and pray often Jesus's words from the cross, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34). Jesus did nothing wrong. We know Jesus was unjustly condemned and still he took the high road to forgiveness. Forgiveness is often difficult but ultimately it is liberating.

"I urge you, brothers [and sisters], in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose" (1 Cor 1:10).

---

<sup>i</sup> [sportscasting.com/dale-earnhardt-jr-in-complete-disbelief-after-jerry-glanville-surprisingly-admits-he-still-has-a-beef-with-joe-gibbs-years-later/](http://sportscasting.com/dale-earnhardt-jr-in-complete-disbelief-after-jerry-glanville-surprisingly-admits-he-still-has-a-beef-with-joe-gibbs-years-later/)