

The Weekly Message from Darren Brandon

September 3, 2024

"Influence"



Eight years ago, during Super Bowl Media Day, a 7-year-old fan got to ask Tom Brady a question. The little boy asked, "Many people say you are their hero, but who is your hero?" Tom Brady responded, "Who is my hero? That is a great question. Well, I think my dad is my hero, because he's someone I look up to every day and uh..." Brady paused for several moments and, tearing up, said, "My dad."

When I see that video, I think of those I have looked up to over the years. They are not saints but people who showed up generously in my life when it mattered most. I wish I had told more of them how much it meant to me.

I know you have heroes in your life too - folks who have been a great influence on you. It may or may not be your parents, but whoever it is, they shaped who you are. Today, you are going to have a great influence in someone's life by being faithful in small ways.

One of my first Bibles had a painting on the cover of a little boy in an oversized No. 18 jersey. He is holding a football in his right hand and looking on as older youth are sitting and talking. The painting is based on a photograph taken at a camp in 1967. Seeing it, Arch Unruh, a Kansas-based painter, created a painting entitled "Influence."

You have a tremendous influence with what you say and do. Whether you know it or not, you're someone's hero.

Blessings,

Darren



Gary Warner's historic photo of David Dean at FCA's Camp in 1967.