

Fall and Rise of Big Red

Blake (Big Red) Wesley is a retired Canadian professional ice hockey defenseman who played parts of seven seasons in the National Hockey League. He seemed to have it all – money, luxury, a sweet and pretty wife, and three sons.

But when the injuries of his sport caused him to experience constant pain, Wesley turned to painkillers, then alcohol, and eventually drugs. He became increasingly irresponsible as a father and husband, so his wife took their sons back home to Oregon until he faced his life head-on.

Told by his coach that his career was over until he straightened out his life, Wesley found himself alone in a dark, seedy hotel room. Tired and angry, he hit bottom.

At that point, he remembered the Lord. Falling to his knees, he yielded his life – including the awful weight of his failures and sins – to the Great Physician, with no strings attached.

Within minutes, his healing had begun. Wesley still faced months of counseling and rehabilitation, but an inner work had started that culminated in complete restoration of his family and his life.



Time spent with God today will be the seed that grows into a new tomorrow. We have demands for our attention pulling at us, both personally and professionally, but it is extremely important to engage in periods of meditation, prayer and worship.

Walk in wisdom ... redeeming the time (Colossians 4:5).

– Beecher Hunter