

Essay from the bold pastor

#181 - Lauren Hill's prayer -

Lauren Hill suffered from an intractable brain disease, DIPG, and was told she didn't have much time left while in high school. Nevertheless, she went on to Mount St. Joseph University in Ohio and fought through unsteady walk as well as nausea and dizziness to play basketball. She even played in an NCAA game last fall and earned multiple points, moving audience all around the world. However, she passed away at last on April 10th at the age of 19.

When she was told she won't live past December, the opening day for the tournament was set 2 weeks later. However, upon hearing her parents' wish to have their daughter appear on the court for once, her college approached NCAA with a request to change the tournament schedule and they approved it as an exception. As the gymnasium of her college can only accommodate 2000 people, a neighboring Xavier University opened their 10,000 plus capacity gymnasium to the tournament. Tickets sold out in 30 minutes, and FOX broadcasted the event.

She was in the starting line-up and made a basket with her left hand 17 seconds into the game, earning the first score of the season in the US. When she showed up again on the court with 26 seconds remaining in the last quarter, she made another shot this time with her paralyzed right hand. This was met with a standing ovation from the entire crowd. Even the opposing team erupted into applause, stirring emotion in many. There is more to the story.

"Please God, I would like to use my sickness for you in any way I can! And I want to give hope to children who suffer from the same disease!" As a devoted Christian, she prayed in desperation. She ended up starting a fundraiser for DIPG, the little-known condition she has. Before long, she raised over a million dollars. Ultimately, the number grew to 100 million.

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

2 Timothy 4:7

This is the last word of Paul, the hardest working disciple of Jesus. Lauren lived as his word says. Many think of believing in Jesus as supporting of the religion or a lie of the weak, but that is far from the truth. Believing in Jesus is to love others, love God, and live powerfully as Lauren who pursued her passion for basketball until the very end.

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