

The Phone Still Rings

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I have recently had two young men who attended Restoration Academy contact me after they were charged with a felony--one young man graduated from here, another one left in the 9th grade. One has been charged with robbing over a dozen stores. After he posted bail, he came by to see me and another coach to convince us that he was innocent. He had already convinced several family members and friends that he was innocent. It was a privilege to speak the Truth into his life and tell him we did not believe him (we had seen him on video) and offer him the gift of repentance.

The other young man graduated from here and had a full scholarship to attend college, but after a year chose the streets. I have been talking to him about earning "legitimate money" rather than turning to crime. He chose the later, but I am glad he chose to call me when he was caught.

I do not know if they will listen, but I do know that some of my most profound discipleship opportunities take place when my former players get into trouble. The key to ministry is relationships--these young men contacted me because of the countless hours they spent with me in the classroom, on the field, and in my home.

I love this ministry because of the countless hours I get with these beloved young people. We have a lot of success stories, but I want to share our difficult stories as well.

I have been around long enough to see God change many of these difficult stories into redemptive ones. I pray these two stories will have a redemptive ending. Restoration Academy has provided me the opportunity to build the relationships necessary to speak the truth, and now it is up to these young men by God's grace to change.