

By

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The Book of Hosea

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JOSIAH:

What you want? You ain't ready. Never were. What's up? Huh? What was that weak junk? Lets go. LETS GO! Here, free shot. Go head. That's all you.

He takes his hands off the table. His opponent gears up for the open shot. He takes it. Misses by an inch.

JOSIAH:

That's what I thought. It's hard to know what's coming when things seem to be goin' good.

Josiah pops it back and sinks the dagger.

JOSIAH:

Who's next?

The kids playfully clown the loser and cheer for their leader.

Josiah raises his arms and takes in his fans. He looks around the room for his next victim and notices... ..a young man, JESSE 15, sitting in the floor, playing solitaire.

JOSIAH:

Alright, alright. Imma give y'all a break. You need to practice anyway.

Our glory can quickly turn into shame. Remember that.

START The kids wave him off and shower him with boos as he walks away headed toward Jesse.

JOSIAH:

Jessay! What's up man? You tryin' to get schooled today? I'm handin' out diplomas.

JESSE:

I'm good thanks.

Josiah looks him over. His faded, worn LS T-shirt says he is not too concerned with his image. And the hole in his old sneakers gives way that he is not the wealthiest. Peeking just below one of his pulled up sleeves is a faded bruise resembling finger prints. Josiah pays it no mind.

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JOSIAH:

That's cool. I wouldn't wanna face me
either.

(no reaction)

What about billiards? More your speed?

Jesse drops his cards and breathes hard as he stands.

JESSE:

Mr. J why can't you get it? I said I'm
good. I'm good.

He walks off nearly taking out a STAFF MEMBER, 30s, that is
approaching.

Josiah just watches him leave the room, not surprised.

STAFF MEMBER:

Hey Josiah. Let me holler at you.

JOSIAH:

What's up?

They step closer to the door where less curious ears are
near.

The playfulness is gone from Josiah. He is now anxious.

JOSIAH:

Please tell me we figured it out.

STAFF MEMBER:

It's official man. Not gonna have the
funds for the trip. Another community
takes a hit because of a government
official's incompetence. Shocker.

JOSIAH:

Ughhh shhhmmm. I had hope.

STAFF MEMBER:

Yeah I know.

JOSIAH:

What if we take some of the net from
the b-ball tourney?

STOP

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