

“Coach Carter” Film Review

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate, our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.” Strong words spoken by a boy who was made a man by a coach’s convictions. “Coach Carter” is a beautiful film filled with rich character development and a masterfully played lead of coach Ken Carter, played by Samuel L. Jackson. Coach Carter comes back to help his high school's basketball team go from only losses to winning big on more than just the basketball court.

Thomas Carter’s “Coach Carter” starts with Ken Carter introducing himself as the new coach and going over a plan to help the players on his team. However, the team begins to joke around and coach Carter scolds them, only to have Timo Cruz, played by Rick Gonzalez, attempt to challenge coach Carter, but he is quickly dealt with and removed from the team. After some time and effort, the team moves on, working hard and being pushed to apply the most effort they can in practice as well as in their studies. The film also depicts the hard lives some of these teens face, from being a teen parent to life as a gang member. However, coach Carter inspires the boys to better themselves, to become men, and to escape their fates and move on to better lives. Ultimately, “Coach Carter” shows how one man can help better the lives of a whole team and improve their personal situations through rising above stereotypes and the trappings of labels.

“Coach Carter” does a wonderful job of showing the troubles of teens and problems faced by minorities. Take Timo Cruz, who starts as a gangster and a problem with authority, even attempting to use physical force against his coach when he is confronted by Ken Carter. Eventually Timo works the hardest out of everyone to get back on the team, even moving coach Carter to tears with his words and his development from rough gangsta with a host of problems to a mature adult who responsibly works on his issues.

To this end, I would recommend “Coach Carter” to anyone and everyone who finds themselves in a rough time. Winning is possible in every aspect of life. We just need to work hard and sometimes change ourselves to reach a victory. We may find ourselves in hard times, but anyone can escape their fate and become a more respectable and stronger person.