

Baseball Team Devotion-The Closer

Scripture: Luke 24:44-48

In 1969 Major league Baseball began keeping a new statistic, the save. The save is when a pitcher comes into the game late and holds the lead for his team thus "saving the game." The all time saves leader in baseball is Trevor Hoffman who has a total of 591 career saves after the 2009 season. These relief pitching specialists are called closers. The greatest closer of all time experts would say is not Hoffman but the man who enters the game to this music (play the beginning of "Enter the Sandman" by Metallica). Mariano Rivera of the New York Yankees is considered baseball's best closer. His ability to pitch pressure games in the playoffs has elevated his stature to the best ever. His 0.74 earned run average and his 39 postseason saves rank as best among closers in postseason history.

But I would say that even though Mariano Rivera has pitched his best in the pressure of the postseason, he is not the best closer ever. I would say the best closer ever is Jesus. Jesus Christ with His death and resurrection made the greatest save of all time. His sacrifice on Calvary's cross enabled all of us to be saved from our sins and to spend eternity with Him in heaven. Jesus Christ closed out the penalty for our sin with His death and resurrection. The only way we can ever win at the game of life is to allow the greatest closer, Jesus Christ, to become the Lord of our lives. As we believe in Him and what God did for us by allowing His only Son to pay the price for our sins, we can only then become a winner at life. Are you a winner at life? Has Jesus made a difference in your life? The greatest closer in the world is only a prayer away.

Visual Aid-Boom box with Metallica CD of "Enter the Sandman"