

Baseball Team Devotion-The Home Run

Scripture Lesson: Luke 15:11-24

There have been some dramatic home runs in baseball history. Some of the greatest moments in baseball history have come about because of the home run. Babe Ruth hitting home run number 60, Roger Maris hitting number 61 in 1961 for the Yankees, Hank Aaron hitting number 715 breaking the career record of Babe Ruth in April 1974, just to name a few. There have been two walk off Home runs to win the World Series, Bill Mazeroski hitting a game winning home run in the bottom of the ninth against the heavily favored Yankees for the Pirates to win the 1960 World Series and Joe Carter of the Toronto Blue Jays hitting a ninth inning walk-off home run against the Phillies in the Fall Classic of 1993. These are all great moments in baseball and great home runs that made a difference in baseball history.

But the greatest home run of all was not one of the home runs mentioned above. The greatest home run is found in our Scripture lesson today. I believe the prodigal son made the greatest home run in all of history. Jesus tells a parable about a son who goes to his father and asks for his inheritance. The father gave the son his inheritance and off the son went to a far land. There he wasted the money, all of it on wild living. He had all the friends money could buy as long as he had the money. When the money ran out so did the friends and to compound the problem, a famine hit the land. He had to take a job feeding pigs, about the worse job a Jewish young man could take. He was so hungry, he was willing to eat the food he was feeding to the pigs. Verse 17 says "When he came to his senses". Wow, the hired servants of my father have it better than this. Maybe just maybe, my father will take me back as a hired servant. All the way home he practices his speech, "Father I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired hands." When he was still a long way away, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him. He hugged his son and as the boy began his speech the father interrupted him. He commanded the servants to bring the robe and ring (signifying son ship). they threw a celebration because the father said his son was once dead, but now is alive. So the greatest home run ever was the prodigal son who ran home to God. He is waiting for us now, why not run home to Him?

Visual aid: mlb.com search for home runs