

Baseball Team Devotion- The Slider

Scripture Lesson: Joshua 7:1-5, 11-12, 8:1-2

The slider can be a very tough pitch to hit. The slider is the fastest of the breaking balls. Its strength is it APPEARS to be a fastball and at the last moment the pitch has a very sharp break. Hitters think they are going to get a fastball and often times a great slider will throw them off balance. Future Hall of Fame pitchers Randy Johnson and John Smoltz are known for devastating sliders. That is where a great many of their strikeouts and victories can be found, in the mastering of the slider. The slider APPEARS to be something it is not and can cause a lot of problems for hitters who think they are about to get a fastball. The slider's strength is it APPEARS to be a fastball, but in fact it is a breaking ball.

In today's Scripture lesson the children of Israel have just won a very impressive victory against the city of Jericho. God gave them a great victory and confidence was at an all time high. The next city in their path to conquer the Promised Land was the small insignificant city of Ai. Joshua sent out scouts and they came back saying that the upcoming battle would be easy, so easy in fact we only need to send a small part of the army to fight. So Joshua sent only 3,000 men to fight what APPEARED to be a very easy battle. The Israelites were routed from the field and lost 36 men killed. Confidence was now at an all time low with the unexpected defeat. When Joshua approached God wondering what could have gone wrong. Everything APPEARED to be great. God told Joshua someone had sinned and took things from Jericho which was forbidden. God would not be with them until the sinner Achan was punished. He was and in Chapter 8 God gave the people a great victory. What APPEARED to be a sure victory was taken away because of sin. I have to wonder, how many times do we think everything is great when in fact sin is keeping us from living the victorious Christian life? Satan wants to make it APPEAR that our sin won't find us out and that we can just go through the motions. Today our challenge is to look at ourselves just the way we are. Is there anything keeping us from experiencing the victorious Christian life God has in store for us? Things may APPEAR good but just like with the slider, we can be fooled. God is just a prayer away, why not confess that sin to Him now and celebrate the victory He has for us today.

Visual Aid: let a pitcher show you his slider grip or google how to grip a slider and demonstrate