

Baseball Team Devotion- The Squeeze Play

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 8:5-13

One of the most exciting plays in baseball is the squeeze play. A squeeze play is when there is a runner on third with less than 2 outs and the manager or coach gives the sign for the batter to bunt. The idea is to get the runner in from third base and to catch the defense by surprise. There are two kinds of squeeze plays: the safety squeeze is when the runner on third waits for the batter to bunt the ball before breaking to the plate; the suicide squeeze is when the runner takes off for home as the pitcher is in his windup trusting the batter to get the bunt down. The manager or coach has to have a great deal of trust in the batter's ability to bunt to call a squeeze play, especially if it is a suicide squeeze. The runner is at the mercy of the batter's bunting skills on the suicide squeeze, for if the batter fails to get the bunt down then there is an easy out at the plate. But when the manager or coach's faith is shown to be true, the squeeze play is worth a run. I have seen games won on the execution of the suicide squeeze.

In our Scripture lesson today Jesus has just entered Capernaum which served as His home base around the Sea of Galilee. A Roman centurion (soldier) came to Jesus to ask for His help. The centurion's servant was very sick and he felt unworthy to have Jesus come to his home. The centurion believed and had so much faith in Jesus, if He just said the word his servant would be healed. When Jesus saw this great faith He was astonished for He had not seen that kind of faith in anyone in Israel. Jesus turned to the centurion and said, "Go! It will be done just as you believed it would." The Bible says the servant was healed at that very hour. With a squeeze play the manager's faith in the batter's ability to lay down the bunt is often rewarded by a run being scored. There is no greater call for a Christian than to have faith in Jesus and in the promises found in God's Word. How is our faith today? Do we believe enough to trust Him no matter what? God will always be there for us and his love is unending. He sent Christ to the world to die for our sins. Since Jesus died for us, do we have the faith to live for Him? What a great reward we will receive one day when Jesus says to us "Well done good and faithful servant." All we need is to live by faith!

Visual Aid: Have a bat and demonstrate a bunt as you talk about the squeeze play.