

Bucket Talk – The Home Run

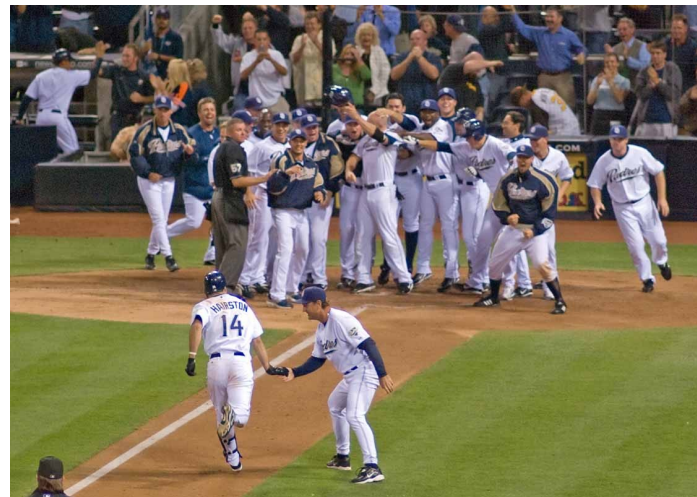
Bible Verses

Luke 15:11-24 "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

"When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Coming back Home

In the games of baseball & softball, the Home Run causes more excitement than any other play. 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 that made a difference in baseball history.



Running back home - What a celebration!

But the greatest home run of all was not one of the home runs mentioned above. The greatest home run is actually found in the Scripture lesson above. 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. The greatest home run was the prodigal son who ran home to God. Just like the picture above, God is waiting for us at home waiting to hug us, why not run home to Him?