

Baseball Team Devotion- The Bullpen Catcher

Scripture Lesson: Luke 5: 1-11

Did you know that most Major League and College teams have bullpen catchers. These players have only one job, to catch in the bullpen. They are considered part of the staff. They never get to play in the game. All they do is catch in the bullpen. They warm up pitchers before they enter the game, they catch side sessions. A lot of their time is spent watching games from the bullpen waiting for that call to warm up the next pitcher. There one and only task is to catch in the bullpen.

In today's Scripture lesson, Jesus is preaching beside the Sea of Galilee. He asked Simon (later named Peter), a fisherman, to put him out a little in his boat. The area near Capernaum was a natural amphitheater. Jesus used the boat and the water to amplify His voice. When he finished teaching, he told Simon to go out to deep water and put out his nets. They had fished all night with no luck. I don't think Simon thought they would have much luck, but he did as Jesus asked. The catch was so large it almost broke the nets and filled both boats to where they were almost sinking. When they got the catch to shore Simon and Andrew his brother and their partners James and John were astonished at the size of the catch and also a little afraid. Jesus told them, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will catch men." So they left their boats and followed Jesus. Their only job before was to catch fish, that was it. But they gave up one kind of catching for another kind of catching. They began a walk with Jesus that day that enabled them to grow in their faith to the point of catching men, women, boys, and girls for Jesus. We have the same call today. We are all called to be catchers for the Kingdom. The equipment we need to become that kind of catcher is a life lived for Christ. Can the way we are living our lives today draw people closer to Christ? Can people see Jesus living through us? A bullpen catcher has only one task, to catch. As a believer our task is to catch for the Kingdom by living for Christ. The call has come for us? Are we ready to catch?

Visual aid: catcher's mitt and mask