

Baseball Team Devotion- The Outfield Assist

Scripture Lesson: Mark 2: 1-12

One of the more exciting plays in baseball is the outfield assist. Outfielders get an assist when they throw out a runner trying to advance a base. This can be a game changing event especially when the outfield assist occurs at home. In 2009 the Major league leader in assists was Hunter Pence of the Houston Astros with 16 followed by Red Sox Jason Bay with 15. The outfield assist helps not only the pitcher but the team to often times stop a rally. The outfield assist can change the direction and outcome of the game.

In our Scripture lesson today, we find that Jesus is preaching to an overflow crowd. There are so many people that they are crammed into the house and pressed around the house. Four friends heard about Jesus and his healing ministry. They had a friend who was paralyzed. There was no way to get him through the crowd to Jesus, so they climbed up on the roof with the paralyzed man on a mat. The friends opened the roof and with ropes began to lower the man to Jesus. Jesus saw their faith and said to the man , "Your sins are forgiven." He instructs the man to take up his mat and walk. Verse 12 says, "He got up, took his mat and walked out in full view of them all. This amazed everyone. The four friends got the assist for bringing their friend to Jesus. It could have been easy to give up and go home, but nothing was going to keep them from getting their friend to Jesus. The greatest assist we can ever have is to bring a friend to Jesus. It will be life changing for them. Just like the outfield assist can change a game, bringing a friend to Jesus can change a life. You can bring a friend to Jesus by doing something as simple as inviting them to go to Church with you to living your life like Jesus would want you to live. I can just see Jesus smiling up at the four friends who brought their friend to Him, and smiling at you when you bring a friend to Him.

Visual aid: Go to mlb.com and print out stats on outfield assists.