

Baseball Team Devotions- Baseball Characters

Scripture Lesson: Luke 17: 11-19

In baseball history there have been a lot of characters, guys who were quirky in their behavior. One of the most beloved characters in baseball history was Mark Fidrych, know as the Bird because he looked like Sesame Streets Big Bird. Fidrych pitched for the Detroit Tigers and in his brief career made an impact on the city of Detroit and upon Major League Baseball. Fidrych would stoop down on the mound and smooth out cleat marks with his hands. He would talk to the baseball telling it where to go on each pitch. He walked around the mound after every out and would throw out a baseball that was hit for a base hit, he didn't like those at all. One of the things that set the Bird apart was how he thanked his teammates. If they made a good play behind him, he would run toward them clapping and thanking them. After the games he pitched he would shake his teammates' hands thanking them for all they did for him. Injury cut short his career but anyone who saw him pitch will never forget Mark "The Bird" Fidrych.

In today's Scripture lesson Jesus has just healed 10 lepers. Leprosy was the worst disease of all in the ancient world. Lepers could not live with other people, they were set out from society in general. Lepers had no quality of life and were in constant pain. When Jesus had mercy on the 10 lepers and healed them, they had to go themselves to the local priest to get show they were diseased no more. This would enable them to return to a normal life. Only 1 out of 10 came back to thank Jesus for what He had done in healing him. How many times has Jesus done something for us and we didn't thank Him? When is the last time a teammate did something great in the game, did we thank him? Too many times we go through life without being grateful for our blessings? When is the last time you thanked your coach for all the time he puts into your team? We should all learn a lesson from Mark "The Bird" Fidrych and be grateful for all our blessings! The challenge today is to live with an attitude of gratitude. Why not thank God for His blessings, your parents for all they have done for you, and your teammates for all they have done for your team. "The Bird" was grateful. How about you?

Visual aid: you tube video is great <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sMSDo3BX5Ds>