

Baseball Team Devotion-The Curve Ball

Scripture Lesson: James 1:22-25

The Curve ball is a pitch of deception. The key to the pitch is the topspin that is placed on the thrown ball, which caused the ball to drop. The object of the curve ball is for it to break below the swing of the bat. A great curve ball often times results in a lot of swings and misses. One of the best curve balls of all time belonged to Hall of Fame pitcher Sandy Koufax. Arthritis in his left elbow brought this career to a premature end after the 1966 World Series. Koufax had a blazing fastball to go along with his knee buckling curve ball. Koufax threw four no-hitters in his career and one of them was a perfect game. Barry Zito of the Giants and Roy Oswalt of the Astros have two of the best curve balls today. Remember it is a pitch of deception.

In our Scripture lesson, James warns us about being deceived. He warns us about a curve ball in life when he says, "Do not merely listen to the Word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." It is not enough for us to hear how to live for God. It is not enough for us to know what to do to live a productive Christian life. The deception comes when we just hear and we don't follow through by putting what we hear into practice. Nike had a commercial that said, "Just do it!" James is saying the same thing to us today. Just do it! Live for God daily by hearing and knowing what to do, and to take the step of being one who puts what we know into practice! James says the man that does what he has heard will be blessed. Satan has been called the great deceiver. He wants us to just be hearers not doers. That is the curve he throws us. When we are doers of the Word, watch my friends the blessings will flow. What are we today, just hearers or are we doers as well?

Visual aid: you tube Sandy Koufax <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wDgMXFBHLPO> and/or have a pitcher show his curve ball grip and/ or google how to grip a curve ball and demonstrate