

Baseball Team Devotion- Fundamentals

Scripture Lesson: Matthew 7:24-27

Baseball is a great game. To play the game at the highest level one has to practice the fundamentals. It is not enough to just know how to catch, hit and throw. In order to play the game at a high level the fundamentals have to be mastered. The only way to get better is to practice. How much time do you spend practicing the fundamentals of catching, hitting, and throwing? One of the best shortstops playing now in the Major Leagues is Yankees shortstop Derek Jeter. Jeter is one of the hardest workers in baseball. All you have to do is watch him during batting practice. He is either hitting or taking ground balls, constantly working to get better. Through the course of his career he has made a lot of great fielding plays as well as getting key hits. Even though he is an all-star, Jeter works hard in practice to master the fundamentals. He not only knows the game, but he works hard to get better each day. Wow, if Derek Jeter works that hard, how hard should you work?

In today's Scripture lesson, Jesus is wrapping up perhaps His greatest teaching time recorded in Scripture known as the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew chapters five through seven contain these teachings. Jesus ends the Sermon on the Mount by saying to the people it is not enough to just hear His words, those words need to be put into practice. He uses the word picture of a wise and foolish builder. The wise person who hears Jesus' words and puts them into practice is like the man who built his house on the rock, or the strong foundation. When the storms came the house stood strong because it was built on a rock. The foolish man who hears the words of Jesus and does not put them into practice is like the man who builds his house on the sand. When the storms came the house collapsed because the foundation was not strong. Just like you build a great baseball player by practicing the fundamentals, a great Christian is developed by practicing the fundamentals of the faith. If we spend time studying God's Word and putting its truth to work in our lives daily by living for Him, we will become a Christian who can withstand the storms of life. The key to the Christian life is putting into practice the fundamentals we learn from God's Word. What do you say? Are you ready to get after the Christian Life? Then let's get to work daily on practicing the fundamentals of faith and building that strong foundation.

Visual aid: you tube video http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=opW9Lmi_tSs Great Jeter play!