

Baseball Team Devotion- The Passed Ball

Scripture Lesson- Mark 10:10-17

A passed ball is just that, a ball that should have been caught by the catcher is dropped or missed. The ball gets passed the catcher. On strike three this allows the batter to attempt to beat the throw to first. It also allows runners on base to advance. The most famous past ball in baseball history occurred in the 1941 World Series between heated rivals the Brooklyn Dodgers and the New York Yankees. Let me set the stage. The Yankees are ahead two games to one. Game three goes to the ninth inning with the Dodgers holding a 4-3 lead. Their relief ace Hugh Casey is on the mound. Casey retires the first two hitters and up comes Tommy Henrich, known as Old Reliable. Henrich often came through in the clutch. Casey gets 2 quick strikes to go ahead in the count 0-2. The Dodgers are one strike away from tying the Series at 2-2. Henrich swings and misses for strike three, but Dodger catcher Mickey Owen missed the ball. It rolled all the way to the backstop, with Henrich reaching first on the passed ball. The Yankees proceeded to score 4 unearned runs and win the game 7-4. The next day the Yankees wrapped up the Series with a 3-1 win. The most famous passed ball in baseball history probably cost the Dodgers a chance at winning the 1941 World Series.

In today's Scripture lesson we see someone who missed, missed the opportunity for heaven. Jesus was approached by on the road by a man who wanted to know what it would take to inherit eternal life. Jesus said do you know the commandments. Oh, yes all these I have kept since I was a boy. The Bible says Jesus looked on him and He loved him. Only one thing you lack, go and sell everything you have and give it to the poor, then come follow me. The man's face fell, and he went away because he had great wealth. Jesus saw that the man's money stood in the way of him giving his all for Jesus. He loved his money more than Jesus. (There can be nothing in our lives more important than Jesus, not even baseball.) The rich young man missed a chance for eternal life, it cost him something far more important than a World Series victory, it cost him his eternal destiny. Do we have anything in our lives that would cause us to miss the chance at heaven? Is there anything in our lives right now more important than our relationship with Christ? Let's not miss the chance at a great Christian life!!

Visual aid: Google Mickey Owen Brooklyn Dodgers images