

Baseball Team Devotion-The Check Swing

Scripture Lesson: 1Corinthians 10:12-13

The check swing is one of the most difficult plays to call in baseball by umpires. In a split second they have to decide if a batter has indeed offered at a pitch enough to consider it a strike. The check swing occurs when a batter likes the look of the pitch and begins his swing only to realize that the pitch may be a ball instead of a strike. The batter then attempts to stop or check his swing. Home plate umpires have the option of asking base umpires for help with this call. I have seen at least two instances when Nationals closer Matt Capps got the batter to go far enough after to trying to check his swing for it to be called strike three. Replay showed without a doubt the batter had swung, yet after both missed calls the batter then got the game winning hit. This call is indeed hard for the umpires as well as the batter. The pitch looks good, but it is hard to check a swing and to call that play.

In our Scripture lesson today Paul writes to the church at Corinth. He wants them to stand firm in their faith and at the same time warns them about temptations that will come. Satan wants nothing more than to make us fall into sin. Just like a pitch may look good for a moment, then we realize that's not a fastball it's a split finger and it is going to be a ball, Satan wants to deceive us by making sin look attractive and good. God has a check swing when it comes to temptation and sin. Paul reminds us in these two verses that God is with us. God gives us the strength through His presence, to check our life swing and not fall for the deception of Satan. When we rely upon God, He will help us recognize sin for what it is and for us to check our life swing, standing firm for Him.

Object lesson: Demonstrate what a check swing looks like and how far one must go for it to be called a strike.

