

Baseball Team Devotion-The Home Run Derby

Scripture Lesson: Philippians 3:12-14

One of the most exciting parts of the Major League Baseball All-Star Game Event is the Home Run Derby. The first Home Run Derby was held in 1985 and Dave Parker of the Cincinnati Reds won with a total of 6 homers. No one has won more Home Run Derby titles than recently retired Ken Griffey Jr. Griffey won 3 times and finished second twice. Most Home runs in a single contest was 41 by Bobby Abreu in 2005 and Josh Hamilton holds the record for most homers in a single round with 28 in 2008. It is exciting to watch baseball's elite sluggers vie for the prize of Home Run Derby Champ. Chances are we will see some very long Home Runs and some exciting moments as we watch the Home Run Derby.

In our Scripture Lesson today, Paul tells the Church at Philippi that he is pressing on to win the prize. I don't think Paul was in some ancient Home Run Derby. The prize Paul is talking about winning is the prize of knowing and living for Jesus. That prize is not some kind of trophy like the winner of the Home Run Derby receives. That prize is salvation and spending eternity in heaven. How much do we know Jesus today? Do we know Him as our Savior and Lord? Are we living for Him in how we play the game and relate to our teammates and coaches? Winning the MLB Home Run Derby would be cool! But the prize we should all try to win each day of our lives is living for Jesus and living like Jesus. Just like it takes a lot of practice to become a Home Run hitter, it takes a lot of practice to be a follower of Jesus. So today why not decide to strive to win the prize of living for and following Jesus. Let's start everyday with the simple prayer, "God, make me more like Jesus today."

Object lesson: you tube vide <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9wyO9jJUpzQ>

