

# Baseball Team Devotion-The Strikeout

Scripture lesson: Matthew 19:16-22

Have you ever struck out in an at bat? I don't care who you are if you play the game of baseball you have struck out. Did you know that the career record for strikeouts is held by Hall of Famer Reggie Jackson with 2,597, followed by current Minnesota Twins player Jim Thome with 2,313? If on average a player gets 600 at bats a year, do you realize that Reggie Jackson would have gone over 4 years of his career without doing anything but strike out? The single season strikeout record is held by Arizona Diamondback infielder Mark Reynolds. In 2009 Mark struck out an astonishing 223 times, which is about once every three at bats. Strikeouts are no fun for the hitter, although pitchers like them. So don't be too hard on yourself when you strikeout, you will get another chance.

Today's Scripture lesson tells us about a guy who struck out with Jesus. A man came up to Jesus one day and asked Him how to receive eternal life. Jesus told the young man to obey the commandments. The man excitedly told Jesus he had done that since he was a boy. Jesus told him he lacked only one thing, go sell your possessions and give it all to the poor and come follow me. The Bible tells us the young man went away sad because he had great wealth. Jesus wanted the man to have nothing he loved more than Him. The rich young man struck out with Jesus because he loved something (his money) more than he loved Jesus. I think we all want to get a hit with Jesus and not strike out. Then my friends there can be nothing in this world more important to us than loving Jesus and following Him. That is hard isn't it? Jesus will help us if we only ask Him, so that we can live for Him and love Him as we should. Are we striking out with Jesus today because we don't love Him more than anything including baseball? We can get another chance, just like in baseball. It is so good that He loves us so much and is only a prayer away! Let's not strikeout with Jesus and let's love Him and live for Him each day!

Object Lesson: Get a picture of Reggie Jackson and Mark Reynolds off the internet to show the team.