

Making Your Home a Field of Dreams Part 3

Strikeouts and Hits

This is sermon **three** of five sermons in the series.

1. Every Team Needs a Coach
Encouraging Fathers to Step Up to the Plate
2. Dugouts and Dropouts
Preventing Kids from Leaving the Faith
3. **Strikeouts and Hits**
Striking the ball with our words
4. Scorebooks and Scoreboards
5. 7th Inning Stretch

Intro: I need to review how I got on God's team, how I learned how to play His way and how I've learned to win!

Joining The Team: At the early age of five I asked Jesus Christ to come into my life. I remember that there was a certain realization in my heart that something was wrong within my spirit. When there was an altar call I came up to the front of the church and knelt at an altar, not because it was a ritual or routine process. There were tears in my eyes and the supernatural awareness that I was not in proper relationship with God had illuminated my mind. I knew that what I needed to do was repent, and at age five, that was not a long list but it was a concept, I needed to humble myself and say, "God I repent of my sins." Basically, I'm saying, I take full responsibility for the sins so Jesus can take full responsibility for my punishment. Of course if I continued to blame everyone else for my sins I would have never been free. But that day I joined the team. It was not a question, it was a certainty, I was born again, or, my spirit now had the spirit of God interacting within my life. The wall that kept Him out was down and I was on His team!

A Life Without Errors: I remember being in my eighth grade year that I made a life decisions to follow Christ no matter what. I had made a decision to ask Jesus Christ into my heart, but up to that time there really was no sacrifice or challenge in the way I lived. But now I was surrounded by kids who had no conscious nor boundaries. The decision to follow Christ in the eighth grade wasn't like I was going to lose all my friends, the real concern was, "Would there ever be friends?"

- Drills:
 - When there is a no one on base and the batter hits a grounder to the pitcher, where do you go?
 - When there is a runner on first and the batter hits a grounder to third base, where do you go?
 - When there is a runner on first and the batter hits a grounder to first base, where do you go?

- If there is a runner on first and third and the batter hits a grounder to the pitcher, where do you go?
- If there is a runner on all three bases and the batter hits a home run where do you go? (You normally go home real sad!)

But I made a deep commitment to serve Christ in a greater way than I had ever done before, and that commitment was to live up to a certain standard in my life; the life of a Christian. I made a decision that no matter what the cost, I was never going to turn back. Which meant that **I would never compromise my standard of living; I play by the rules.**

Hitting To Win: While attending a youth camp the summer going into my Sophomore year in High School I had an encounter with God that set the direction for the rest of my life. After a message that challenged my life, God called me into what I thought was the ministry, but what He actually called me into was the call of investing my life in sharing His love to impact others for the name of Christ which is ministry. I happen to be a pastor, but that is just where I am called to invest my live in sharing His love to impact others for the name of Christ.

Strikeouts happen because of one of two reasons:

1. Either you are not swinging properly, (technique)
2. You are swinging for the fence. (Overcompensating)

Slumps: Slumps are when strikeouts are more prevalent than hits. What occurs when you are having several strikeouts in a row is called a slump.

- **A common statement for those who are in a slump is, just step up and keep swinging.**
- **A common remedy for strikeouts is concentration, technique.**
- **A remedy for slumps is technique, concentration and confidence.** It is the absolute belief that you belong in the game, that you can do this and in essence, that you were created to be on this team!

Proverbs 18:20-21

"From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat it's fruit."

Proverbs 18:20-21

Hit: A Word or Words spoken that create life and freedom!

- **Prophetic Word:Kellen And Savannah**

Hitting The Ball

Here's a Key Point #1: Games are won by hits not just the lack of errors.

What this passage is saying is that within our words and out of our mouth we literally have the power over death and life. It means we have the power to create and the power to destroy.

Key Point #2: You cannot step into the blessings of the power of your faith until you are willing to step into the opportunity of the power of your words.

Who Is God?-

"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters."

Genesis 1:1-2

- More than seven times it says in Genesis 1 that "God said..."
- Everything was void, without shape or purpose and God spoke creation into being. Nothing that was made was made without God speaking. Isn't that interesting. Why would he have to say anything at all? He is God. He was setting a pattern for us to live because within we were made with a creative ability that could bring the undeveloped, the "void", the nothing and make it into something.
- Your Words are a Hit- **A Hit Is A Word or Words Spoken That Creates Life and Freedom**
- God took nothing and made something with his Words

"...the Lord God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being."

Genesis 2:7

- In Genesis 1 God took nothing and made something and in Genesis 2 he took that something and made you and me.
- You and I were made out of the Word of God.
- **Who Is God?**
 - **A Speaking Creating Being**
 - Some theologians believe that when the Bible says that God "*breathed into his nostrils the breath of life*", that he became a "speaking being".
 - **God Made Us In His Image**

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground."

Genesis 1:26

In the image of God He created us and just as God was able to speak and create something out of nothing, the Bible says that we have the same ability in our mouth to create life or destroy life.

“From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat it's fruit.”

Proverbs 18:20-21

Key Point #3: If we love the power that is in our mouth we can enjoy it's fruits. A Hit Is A Word or Words Spoken That Creates Life and Freedom

It is literally saying that a man's stomach will be filled with the fruit of his mouth and the produce of his lips; death and life are in our tongue. And if we respect it, respect the power that is in our mouth, then we can enjoy it.

- **Love: Ahab** (aw-hab') To desire, **to breath after anything**. (The signification of breathing after, hence of longing.)
- **Who Is Satan?**

Satan wants to do the opposite. What he wants to do is turn our mouths into a killing zone. He wants us to believe that our words are not consequential, that our words are not that important.

Every single word that we speak is important to God. We can all sit down and discuss how important our words are to one another and place different values on them. But to God, every word has an eternal value.

- **Context: A crowd of Jews had come around Jesus as He explained who He was.**
- **Who Was Jesus Speaking To?**

“To the Jews who had believed him, (they were on the team), Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, (His Words), you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

John 8:31-32

- **Believed** is getting on the team
- **Hold to His teaching** is to live by His Word to minimize the errors of life;
- **Truth** are words that defines a fact, truth are the words that connect the bat with the ball. **A Hit Is A Word or Words Spoken That Creates Life and Freedom**
- **Free** is to speak as Christ speak, you hit, you win the game.

A Hit Is A Word or Words Spoken That Creates Life and Freedom

- **Problem: These new believers had the wrong definition of what being free was or what a win was.** These Jews were saying. “Hey, wait a minute, I'm free, I'm winning, what are you talking about.” “I'm winning in life and you don't have a right to challenge it.” The Jews were angry with Jesus because He had just rocked their theological boat which by the way did not line up with Jesus' words.
- The Jews tried to make a win a **descendant of Abraham issue.**
- **Jesus was making a win a destiny of life issue.**
 - Some Jews had gathered around Jesus and they rejected His teaching/Words because they were convinced that because they were part of the bloodline of Abraham that that was enough to be free in God.
 - Jesus unveils the deception that they were in by stating:

*“I tell you the **truth**, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.”*

John 8:34

- **Truth are words that defines a fact, truth are the rules.**
- **You can never be saved until you realize that you were lost. Coming to know Jesus Christ as the core of your life is not because you decided to trade teams, it is realizing that only one team actually wins! This offends many people.**

*“I know you are Abraham's descendants. Yet you are ready to kill me, because you have **no room for my word.**”*

John 8:37

Who was ready to kill Jesus? New believers. Why? Because there was no room for His Words in their Truth.

Truth: Words centered around a learned thought, philosophy or theology.

Key Point 4: If you change your truth, you will change your words and if you change your words you change your win.

What were these new believers saying? What these new believers were saying is, we don't have room for your truth in our thoughts, philosophies or theology. **That may be your truth, but it is not our truth. It may be what you believe, but it's not what I believe.**

What was Jesus saying? He was saying what is so common today and Jesus' word are still accurate: **their truth, “words centered around a learned thought, philosophy or theology” were keeping them away from the creative words of Jesus that**

could give them life...eternal life and freedom. There was no room for the creative life and freedom that His words could create in their hearts.

- **Who Is Satan?**

*"You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a **murderer** from the beginning, **not holding to the truth**, for there is **no truth in him**. When he **lies**, he speaks his native language, for he is a **liar and the father of lies**."*

John 8:44

Notice that Jesus accredits Satan by what he says. "You will never be free until you take hold of Jesus' teaching/words, they make you free."

What Is Sin?

Sin: Sin is placing your faith in words that cannot create life or true freedom.

- Believing that belittling those around you will make people respect and love you.
- Believing that the words you speak harshly to your family members will lead to a unified family that cares for one another.
- Believing that the next relationship you have outside of God's blessing will finally give you happiness and lead to a life of peace.
- Believing that the next drink you take will offer you the ability to handle life and help you make the decisions you need to make.
- Believing that living in the deception of your lies and hidden actions are justified and that life will actually be better, somehow you actually believe you are doing everyone a favor.
 - Sin is placing your faith in words that cannot create life or freedom! Jesus came to change that.

Key Point 4: If you change your truth, you will have to change your words and if you change your words you change your win.