

Game Plan
Part 2: Get on Base
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Galatians 5:25

Introduction

I love baseball! It is my favorite team sport. I grew up in the little league system all the way to Pony league. I played baseball in High school and even coached little league for years as an adult. There is nothing better than going to Chase Ball Park and watching the game with the roof open and eating peanuts. When I was a kid, growing up in Scottsdale, I used to sit up on the roof of my house, with my transistor radio, so I could pick up Vin Scully's broadcast of the Dodger games coming out of LA. I remember one time Don and I went to a Mariners spring training game and Randy Johnson was pitching and hit Jt Snow right in the jaw with a 100 mile hour fast ball. He dropped like a bag of cement. This is the baseball that Tim Salmon signed when he came and spoke to our youth group here at church. This is a homerun baseball I hit in little league.

Getting to first base in life is really about finding out what is real. What's real is that God desires to live with his creation. In the beginning God created a man and women and lived with them in the garden.

1. First Base - is _____ (finding) God

Romans 10:9-11

That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved. 11 As the Scripture says, "Anyone who trusts in him will never be put to shame." NIV

Rom 6:3-44 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. NIV

When we get into the game of life, God becomes our manager. We get an entirely new life and everything changes. Before God came into us, we were on our own, deciding which direction to go. What was best for the given situation? We could only consult with other players and a coach who really hated us.

John 8:44-45

You belong to your father, the devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire....there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies. NIV

Getting on first base is coming to the conclusion that God created me and desires me. When we get on first base, we join a new team and have a manager who thinks we're the best. But the greatest thing we receive when we get on base is our new uniform.

Galatians 3:27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. NIV

Here is another unbelievable verse.

Rev 3:20

Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.

Do you know what those two verse reveal? A miracle. We have been clothed with Christ? We eat, walk, talk, and live with Christ. Our key verse today

Gal 5:25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.NIV

This is intimacy with God. We can't get that close to our wives or husbands.

A miracle has happened at first base when we become a "Christ One," the definition of the word Christian.

Let's review how privileged we are that the person of God comes into our lives.

This kind of INTIMACY with GOD, before the death and resurrection of Jesus, didn't exist. Not with Abraham, Jacob, Moses, King David, Elijah, or even John the Baptist. In the Old Testament any Israelite who touched the Arc of the Covenant, that was the box that contained the 10 commandments, would fall down dead on the spot. In contrast, the people in the New Testament who touched Jesus, the Son of God, were healed. In the Old Testament, the Jews would not even spell out or pronounce the name of God, but Jesus now tells us to call God, "Abba", meaning "daddy." The book of Hebrew explores this INTIMACY WITH GOD by reminding us that before Christ the people could only approach God once a year, on the Day of Atonement, and then only the High Priest could enter the Most Holy Place in the Temple. Before he did this he was ceremonial cleansed in a bath. He had to put on special clothes and make an offering of 5 separate animals. The High Priest still entered the holy of holies in fear wearing bells on his robe and a rope tied around his ankle so that if he died, and the bells stopped clanking, other priests could pull him out.

Heb 4:16-5:1 Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

Being on God's team frees us to enjoy His presence and management of our life. Life becomes abundant!

2. Second Base - is learning to _____ (Follow) God.

Col 3:3-4

For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. NIV

In its simplest form following God is experiencing God. We recognize that God begins to change us. Following God isn't about obeying a bunch of rules, it's relating to God and to people in a new way. Jesus summed this up.

Matt 22:36-40 "Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?" 37

Jesus replied: "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the first and greatest commandment. 39 And

the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments."

Following God causes us to love people.

John 17:3 Now this is eternal life : that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent. NIV

Let me ask you something. If the Holy Spirit, who is a person, lives in us how do we experience Him? How do we really get to know this person who lives in us? Jared will talk more about his in a couple weeks but, for now let's remind ourselves of God's desires in the scripture preceding our key verses for today.

Gal 5:22-25 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. 24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

We are fully capable of living life by the Spirit but not keeping in step with the Spirit. It's like being on the team but sitting on the bench. Bench players still get paid but are out of the game. Not keeping in step with the spirit is like sitting on the bench. We will still receive our salvation but we never get to experience God's plan. God is not just interested in getting us on the team but interested in us. He wants us to experience His Life of love, joy, peace, patience, and kindness. This is where the hard work comes into play, following Christ.

Phil 2:12-13 Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed — not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence — continue to work out your salvation...13 for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose. NIV

Owe exchange our nature that is unloving, impatient, bitter, unkind and abrupt with people for His nature. This takes work for our tendencies our strong.

3. Third Base – is learning to _____ (serve others).

VIDEO: Ok we are in the 7th inning of this sermon, we're almost home. I got a special feed from heaven; it seems they play baseball up there. Everybody stand up and let's sing with joy ***"Take Me Out to the Ball Game."*** ***Leading us today will be our old friend Harry Carrie.***

Eph 2:10 For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. NIV

God is working with us. He gives us work to do that is good. He already knows what he wants us to do. Our job is to follow. To identify the good works and then enjoy them!

1 Peter 4:10 Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms.

There are no superstars in God's service. The only Superstar is Jesus Christ and he wants to knit hats for ladies who live on the street. He wants to build a house for some family in Rocky Point. He wants to talk to someone who is hurting in the parking lot after church. He wants to prepare and feed a meal to the homeless in Mesa. He wants to collect toys and deliver them to children who have none. He wants to have people

doing life together in HomeTeams. He wants to serve the people in the barrios of Peru. We are his hands we are his voice, we are his touch. We are his team of people in Fountain Hills!

4. Home Plate- is _____ (sharing) the _____ (good News) of Jesus Christ.

God's ultimate goal was not just to get you to heaven but to teach you on Earth how much He loves you. If getting you to heaven was God's only reason for saving you, then the moment you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior he could give you a heart attack and ZAP, you're in heaven. But, he needs you here to share the message of hope with others! Jesus is the savior for all of our struggles. People need this salvation and you are the ones who contain Him!

Why did people follow Jesus? Because he was kind to them. He was peaceful. He brought them joy when he was around. He even healed them of their diseases. People followed Jesus because he loved them.

We will never be able to convince somebody that God is real if we don't love them. If we claim to know Jesus but we are not kind to them, they will turn away. Our actions illustrate the gospel.

Titus 1:16

They claim to know God , but by their actions they deny him.

Evangelism isn't that hard if we Love God and Love others! When you share Christ with someone it's like hitting a homerun!

As Don said last week, "This is Our Time." This is our Time to reveal Christ to this community. We have a divine appointment!

Acts 17:26-27 And he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. 27 God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him..

Let's pray! It's our time father to help people to find you. Your desire is that all people would be saved. Help this team, this church, work together to shine your loving light in this community that we would be noticed by our kindness, our love, our Christ! ...

Communion

As we enter a time of communion we remember that Christ died on the cross and was resurrected from the grave so that we might live.

John 6:58-59 This is the bread that came down from heaven. Your forefathers ate manna and died , but he who feeds on this bread will live forever." NIV

Rom 6:8-9 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. NIV When Jesus was around people he made them feel more alive than less. He brought them hope and encouragement. We will have a word of prayer, and then we will be served the Lord's Supper.