

Home Run Life Series: Week 2

PK's Teaching Notes

2.8-9.13

Week 2: Home Run Life

Wel to Home Run Life-wk 2 Today – **How do you get on base for a home run life?** We all want to live a Home Run kind of life – we want to win with success in career & finance, we want to win in relationships w/ marriage, family & friends, we want to win within with self-respect and we want to live out our God ordained purpose by his power. Nobody aspires to strike out in life, and yet, most do & never really get the Home Run Life. Perhaps bc we never understood how God grows us up or bc we cheat the bases!

How do we get success ... w/o selling out soul ... & losing? (review of last wk) ... (WtBd); As I teach in the HOME RUN book - here's how God grows us up: We use the BB diamond as a simple metaphor that gives us a pattern ... a game plan for life. Like BB, there are only 4 bases we all have to cover to experience a home run life & like BB it begins and ends at HP (Connect w/ God) **How do we get success ... w/o selling out soul by following God's pattern;** 1st B (Character-a life of integrity –win within); 2nd B (Community-win with others); 3rd B (Competence – the performance base where we win results); and bring it all back to Home to our greater Purpose. God set a pattern in play, **Rms 12:1-2 (pg 1137)** Pattern, & of this world? Backwards & so we cheat to Get the Dream, Which is what costs us the dream! Scoring in BB, like Life is **The long route ... Start w/ God & go to 1st Base First; ... this is to win within – Integrity!** (**circle HP to 1st**) this is the focus of today's teaching – how you get on base for a home run life. The majority never get on base – thrown out at 1st base, bc character is the first battle! And the earlier you get this into your life (teens/20's), the better chance you have of a home run life. Such is the case for Brandon M. One the young men I have grown to love & respect here at 12S. It began early for him & he's still working out God's purpose, here's his story (**PLAY**)2:55

Did you get the highlights? **How do we get success w/o selling our soul? The long route? Integrity? What God had called me to do?**

I. What we need to KNOW (in principle)

II. What we need to DO (in practice)

I. What we need to KNOW: to Get On Base for a Home Run Life (in principle)

In the Vine, is the power to win within,

*When I drift from the vine, I drift into vice! (read w/ me **on screen**)*

IN THE VINE – **Jn 15:5** (quote) ... **there is a flow of life, a power that comes from the Vine into a branch & enables that branch to bear fruit. That's how you were created to live on earth. CONNECT with God (the VINE) and as a BRANCH (being you/your life) God will send power in/thru you to become Fruitful (includes Character Battles within). The power to win within is not by your power – but by God's.**

However, if you DisCONNECT from the VINE (from God) – you end up being enslaved to your appetites, passions, and fears – to SIN & you get taken OUT! However, if you CONNECT w/ God –(thru Jesus)– **VINE – it is his power that makes possible your transformation.** Still, if you drift from him, you tend to return to your OLD LIFE bc it was never your power that made the change possible. Which is why many grow up for awhile, but never really stay changed. Not bc God's power is weak or that following Christ is a false promise, but bc we drifted from the vine.

II. Hence need to DO? (practice) 3 Things ...

... take a swing at these 3 or you'll strike out and never get on base!

#1) **Live for the Truth** (or lose with a lie)

When someone says, "*There's no such thing as truth*" isn't that an oxymoron? If there's no such thing as TRUTH, then what they just said cannot be true. Since there is TRUTH (& LIES), then who has the truth?

When Jesus walked the earth, he said, "I tell you the truth" - ...

You're Father in Heaven loves you enough to tell you the truth so that you can WIN in life. That's what dad's do – they teach the game plan. They want their kids to win ... God wants you to win, to get on his purpose, have his power and win the character battles bc he loves you. He's coaching you like a dad coaches his son in BB. A friend & pastor told about his experience of coaching his son Seth in BB (**Insert Story**) ...

When our HFather teaches us the TRUTH about the game of life (and we don't like the truth) –we often take our ball & bat and go home. II Tim 3:16 "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness." God teaches us in the Bible, what scores and what gets us thrown out, and just like Seth, we get ticked off at God's coaching bc we don't like the truth ... we'd rather live for PLEASURE than Live for the TRUTH. *And we're losing the Home Run life & pretending we are not OUT*, but we were OUT a long time ago! #1 DECIDE to **Live for the Truth**

#2) Plug into the Vine (it's not my power)

Sometimes, we overcomplicate God's teaching and miss the simple but profound point he is making. John 15:5 is not complicated. Jesus was living in a culture dominated by agricultural careers – people lived direct off the land. The metaphor of a grape growing from a branch that was connected to a main vine was part of their normal daily life. Jesus was taking spiritual reality and explaining it with a physical world picture.

If he came here in our modern day of technology, he might say, I am the power outlet and you are the cord. (PK Illus w/ a lamp and a cord on stage). As a man or women remains plugged into me, you will have great light, but apart from me, you will live in the dark; nothing of eternal significance. Blind for life ... That's it! BC it's not my power that makes me able to see truth, understand truth or live out the truth. On my own – Dark, fall into Sin.

Last week, I got in my car ... turned the key and NOTHING. Dead. Disconnected Battery ... sometimes, we are sp stuck, & the only problem is disconnected from vine. disconnecting from our Heavenly Father – from Bible or Prayer & we are powerless!

So in the book, "HOME RUN", ch 5, page 90 we talk about how to PLUG into God's Word and PRAY ... (go read/practice it) Stay connected to your HF. There are 1st Base places he longs to take us that we can get to only on his power. Like Jadon, my 10 yr old. He had only one place he wanted to go this weekend, but he's powerless to get there on his own. What place is that? Ck out this 30 seconds and you'll get the point? (PLAY Lego Trailer). BTW, we've been there & give it a A+ esp for a dad & son movie.

Stay connected to your H. Father ... or you are powerless for the things that are beyond you – (more than a lego movie – more like 1st Base Temptations)

#3) Draw the Line (be done with this "one")

So, "Living for Truth" & "Plugged into the Vine" – God will reveal how to win & the power to win first base character ... he'll DRAW the LINE & THAT'S WHERE YOU DRAW THE LINE for a HR Life ... Agree with God bc he's FREEING you up from being a slave to sin & stupid:

Romans 6:6-7, 11-12, 14, 17-18 (pg. 1131) ...vs. 17, *this pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance. See, all your lives you've let sin tell you what to do. But thank God you've started listening to a new master, one whose commands set you free to live openly in his freedom.*

Common Experience: ... as you grow in faith, many sins cease to control you; then there are those 1, 2 or 3 sins (1st Base Character Issues) that battle W/in you & they have a stronger grip, they don't just go away.

Into 20's 30's – my 3: **ANGER, LUST & FEAR:**

ANGER ... a rage wrapped up in a wounded, selfish, insecure soul that was easily offended & demanded having things my way!

LUST ... for food, for material things, sexual appetites & for success that would *drive my life* & long to indulge without regard to discipline, moderation or timing!

FEAR ... in so many forms especially financial fear. (the sin of worry dominated my life; tho Jesus said, 'don't worry', HF knows/provides.

For these to loose their grip – their dominance – it took a more dedicated drawing of the line & seeking God through Roms 6; and as I have remained plugged into the vine~these have lost their control – my kids have not grown up seeing their father w/ the rage I experienced w/ mine – God will grant a power that is not your own – I'm not saying I'm perfect, -I can still be tempted, I can still stumble & fall prey, still make errors ... that's part of life & baseball. Pro Athletes are committed to a perfect game, and they are striving to be error free – but they will humanly stumble –... ck out these bloopers (PLAY 1:12)

It is frustrating– nobody is perfect ... but God makes it possible for us to have a PERFECT HEART toward him and to be free from being a slave to sin! My 3? ANGER-LUST-FEAR

What are 3 that easily tempt you & take you out? (drop the ball?)

Today, we are going to seek God in fresh surrender to “Break the Cycle of Sin” that dominates our lives ... Eph 6:10 “Be Strong in the Lord & in His Mighty Power” ... “our prayer” – A serious, & sacred moment to take God at His word ... and **Draw the Line on an area of sin or specific sin that has dominion & being thrown out on the way to first base ... (Bulletin; BAT) ...temper, lust, sexual sin, fear, worry, gossip, slander, drunkenness, lying, stealing, cheating, adultery, porn, laziness, critical spirit, hate, unforgiving spirit, bitterness ... sin that has dominion over my life & God – I’m seeking to be strong in the Lord & His Mighty Power ... **BREAK THE CYCLE OF SIN** ...**

***So the we are going to enter a time of prayer, The CP’s are stepping up & will lead a prayer over you, guide you through offering & into the ONE SIN where you’re Asking God to Break the Cycle, so I can win within/ 1st base character! Let’s all enter into prayer (CUT)**

CP’s / PK lead prayer ...

Prayer ...

- 1) Father in Heaven, ... so grateful that you sent your son Jesus who conquered sin and death. We affirm that great truth.
- 2) As those who have accepted Jesus, we have your Spirit within us, we affirm that truth ... and therefore, COUNT OURSELVES Dead to Sin and Alive in Jesus Christ ...
- 3) So we are asking that you would move in us and Break The Cycle of Sin that so often takes us out ...
- 4) Each One, right now – having a serious/sacred moment with you ...
God, this is the ONE thing I need to START ... STOP

... Amen