

Home Run Life Series: Week 4

PK's teaching Notes

2.22-23.13

Week 4: Home Run Life

Wel to Home Run Life-wk 4 Today, we're going to talk about **Winning 3rd Base Pressure** for a HOME RUN Life. Everyone wants a Home Run *kind of life* ... but most of us never get that life! Our Temptation? Selling our soul for career, \$ success? Seems all this world has to do is shake the bag of career success & we come running w/ abandon ... Like this commercial (**PLAY**) The world so elevates career, \$ & material success that we'd break down the wall to get it; do anything ... even do life bcwards; God says **SUCCESS** matters - **But HOW you chase success matters:**

I. What we need to **KNOW** (in principle) **Winning Third Base pressure**

My Purpose is in my Creator, not my Career!

So I live and work for my Creator first! Repeat... **Screen**

The world **MAKES CAREER THEIR PURPOSE** in life! Thus, willing to sacrifice their eternity, their integrity and their family to gain success!

But once we come to God ... Connect w/ Creator, We see & live w/ a **NEW MIND** (renew your mind **Rms 12:1-2**) You realize you can have Eternity, Integrity, Family & Success in one fulfilling life ... God's the Center!

... HOME RUN LIFE – thru the baseball analogy: God's game plan for life and leadership. ... **Wt Bd**... but we live in a performance driven world, (Backwards) ... & bc that's how the REAL WORLD lives & bc we work w/ them – we are under the same pressure to live Backwards ... it's a real temptation to "CONFORM" So, **How to Win 3rd Base Pressure.**

In Principle: settle ... **My Purpose is in my Creator, not my Career!**

>> (**Wt Bd**) The Lie of Secular (lft) vs. Sacred (Rt); Truth: Whole life is in God...

>> We All have to WIN Career Perfor: but forward vs. bckwrd is as diff as A Steak vs. a Cow Patty. Both come from a cow(**screen**); but one is Steak & one Stinks! Get the pic? Same Cow produces Steak (**screen**) & produces Cow patty's (**screen**). Well, we all have to win at 3rd base, same cow pressure, but if you make your career your life purpose – it's ultimately a cow patty life; if you make your creator your purpose – career is in it's proper place – HP/1st/2nd it's ultimately a steak life to the full.

And the unfortunate fact: many Xtians are coming to God and asking God to bless a backwards running life? perhaps that explains why so many people who claim to be Christians show little diff in marriage/divorce, character or peace than the world around them, it's just as crappie a life as the world ... It's like wrapping a cow patty in Xmas paper ... it's still crap! God doesn't bless crappie thinking or crappie living & if you wrap a backwards running base lifestyle in God language; it's still crap. If you do not renew your mind, & make God your life PURPOSE first – then you'll get the cow patty instead of the steak.

Be transformed in your thinking & living, don't settle for a crappie life, reset: **My Purpose is in my Creator, not my Career!**

So I live for and work for my Creator (Why?) BC God is my provider! ... *I've been working on that since college:* Like many, my rela w/ my earthly father broke down. 1st 10 yrs he was my hero, then it all blew up. I was mostly on my own by 17 & the pressure to PROVIDE became kryptonite/it always weakened me! So by time my late 20's/early 30's w/ kids and a failing career, The pressure was insurmountable. **How do you practice this stuff under pressure? (*anyone else ever feel like career & \$ pressure owns your life?*)** How do you practice God is my Provider? **Well**, We had moved here to ATL in the late 80's & became familiar w/ the Voice of the Braves (Ernie Johnson Sr) ... (**PLAY**) 0-33.

A decade later, I met a new friend. The son of the Voice of the Braves, Ernie Johnson, Jr. Soon, he prayed to accept God's forgiveness thru Jesus & joined this faith journey. One of our early & often conversations was "God is my Provider". Tho EJ had a great dad on earth **PIC** (EJ & dad pic) – NOW, we both had the **same H. Father** and as men w/ families & pressures, we talked often about what it means to live out **Matt 6** (pg 971)! "God is our provider" (**READ** vs. 25-27, 32-34)... it's not all on me, Kevin, ... it's not all on Ernie ... So, how can we live this out? (**PRACTICE**)

II. What we need to **DO** (in practice)

II. **Winning Third Base pressure (in practice)** Resp Rding after each point

#1) God is my provider, I TRUST in Him ~ In **Ps 20:6-8** "*some trust in Chariots & some trust in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God*".

David was talking about 3rd base career ... as king/*warrior* was his career! And he makes it clear that he settled something ... the power to win – real tangible success on 3rd base is God's ... God's connected not separate from his 3rd base. Your career is not separate from your rela w/ God.

How do I practice I TRUST in Him:

1) B4 I run to work I walk w/ God! talk w/ God & read his Word each day b4 I engage Work. (& exceptional pressure: Pray in Shower Bible Iphone/car. But he's first! BC it's not all on me in my career. My H.Father is involved intimately. I pray my work worries to him, my \$ worries, & work pressure. Every day I Ask/pray for wisdom & success! Thruout the day

2) I work up to 6 days ... but not 7; 1 in 7 is God's. Worship/Rest. It's an act of Faith! I know this world will work 7 days, I will not. **CONVINCED:** I Will accomplish more on 6 days work & 1 Worship/Rest than I can on 7 days! It's an act of faith, On my day off I give my work/career/\$ to God, confess it does not all depend upon me. He is my ultimate provider ... *Long Haul – I'll outperform bc, my soul is at peace, Ch in tack, my marriage/Family strong & I can devote so much more focus – so much fuller life –Huge adv. How much work is lost bc people are consumed w/ the drama & distraction of broken down lives? (self-inflicted)*

3) I put time limits on my Work life! I Work 50 hrs a week. BC a HOME RUN life is more than Work/Suc; Sp Fitness: pray/bible, worship, phys fitness, eat, sleep, manage a household, walk w/ marriage, kids, family, serve others, vol in ch, kids sports, reading/reflection, friends ... work is core & I enjoy my work, but it's not my life purpose, it's one part! 50 serious hrs, hence #2:

#2) God is my provider, I WORK for him

Colossians 3:22-25 (The Message) on screen

My 10 yr old son Jadon is on Soccer Team. Last wks practice, they were doing soccer drills. Intensely running a snake pattern around cones & I just smiled at one of teammates. When the coach turned around the BOY quite running, & walked the rest of the way. And really, he's a high talent player, but he's a low self-leadership player. If he doesn't get this out of his life, he'll spend his life wondering why he is gifted & yet so unsuccessful. It's bc he won't make himself work when the boss isn't looking. He has an aversion to hard work! And many times, people say, "*I'm doing life by God's design & that's why I'm losing less results on 3^d base*" – I've noticed that's rarely true – they are more like this BOY on the soccer team, shoddy work ethic: Your work ethic is a spiritual thing & God cannot bless shoddy work. **Being a follower of Jesus doesn't cover up for bad work!** If you won't train your talent and do good work – you lose. Chose to work like you're working for God ... regardless if you own the business or work for someone else: **HOME RUN pg. 181.**

#3) God is my provider, I Wait for FAVOR in **Joshua 23:9-11** tells us that God has given Israel awesome 3rd base success & then explains how, **"One Man routes 1000 BC the Lord fights for you" ...**

Favor is when God fights for you & does for you what you cannot do for yourself! After EJ became a Christ Follower – and we met often to dive into God's Word, process life and apply faith ... his career did not take a dive. God's favor granted him ongoing success. EJ rose to host the NBA on TNT; including his Sports Emmy over Bob Costas. He and Cheryl have 3rd base favor as they Connect wt/ God HP & seek to run by God's design:

That's why **Joshua 23:9-11** gives us the wisdom to protect favor: **"So be very careful to love the Lord your God"** – Home Plate "love God" leads to favor on 3rd base, and it gives you perspective on 2nd base rela, bc you don't have to use people, you can love & respect them.

So I asked EJ to share a slice of his story in his own words: **(PLAY)**

It is a great walk – but there was a moment when in the mist of Career pressure, EJ had to make a decision, like every man & every woman – Will you Connect with God? Will you make him your life purpose? Even when I met EJ, he believed there was a God, but he had not bowed to God.

Maybe you're a lot like E.J. – you recently started showing up and seeking out matters of faith. Maybe – God's starting to make sense. And it's time for a moment to bow ... So, today – we're going to offer the same moment Ernie took that day at the restaurant. What did God do for EJ?

Turn to Titus 3:3-8 (pg. Read) ... comments (keep bible open, this is what God is going to do for any who would ask)

That's what he did for EJ in a prayer something like this: **(screen):**

Father in Heaven, I know that I have lived for myself instead of you. I have sinned against you. I believe

Jesus died for my sin. So I confess my sin and ask you to forgiven me. I bow to you as LORD of my life. Help me to live for you this day forward. In Jesus Name, Amen.

I can't pray that for you, EJ can't pray that for you, God cannot pray that prayer for you, the church doesn't save you nor does your good works. It's all in God making it possible through Jesus & if this is your time & God is speaking to you; then GET RIGHT w/ GOD; at every campus – we are going to take a moment for you to Bow, offer this prayer & be restored to God, CONNECT w/ God = Home Plate! (child of God)

So we're going to put that prayer on all the screens and invite you to a life changing moment to get right w/ God. If you've never bowed to God & he's drawing you to himself – say yes to him today. Make this your prayer.

**The Campus pastors are stepping up to invite you into this moment to get right with God ...
CUT**