



HOME RUN Devotional #20 – Don't Keep Score

By Pastor Darren L. Chilson

As he stood there, dressed in the finest clothing and jewelry that Egypt had to offer, images of that day flashed across his mind. The looks on their faces as they attacked him, spoke of jealousy, and even hate. "Is this really happening?" he thought. He remembered looking up at them from the pit through swollen and bruised eyes, trying to count his injuries. He remembered the smell of animal blood as they smeared it on his multi-colored coat. He remembered all this despair, and how it had served to lead him to this moment.

Think about a time when someone has wronged you. Maybe in high school you were dumped by a boyfriend or girlfriend in a particularly embarrassing way. Maybe your children have said hurtful things to you, and turned their backs on you. What would you do if you had the opportunity to be in a position of power over them?

As he moved past the memories of despair, he remembered that he had seen God work everything in his life for good. He saw the times where God was watching over him even though incredibly terrible things were happening to him. Joseph looked at his brothers and revealed himself. They were terrified. Joseph was now in a position of power over them, and they were sure he was going to punish them. As Joseph looked at his brothers the love of the Father washed over him and he spoke these words, **"And now, do not be distressed and do not be angry with yourselves for selling me here, because it was to save lives that God sent me ahead of you."** (Genesis 45:5)

If there was ever anybody in history that had the right to keep score, it would be Joseph. Instead Joseph chose to show God's love, over human bitterness. As you think about those who have wronged you in the past, and feelings of fear, anger, and insecurity creep back up into your heart, know that you have two choices. You can choose to hold onto your anger and your hurt, and let it control you, or you can choose to show the love of Christ, by turning off the scoreboard of wrongs, and offering forgiveness.

Romans 3:23 reminds us **"All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** Let's not look at the scoreboard with others; instead let God show us his scoreboard.

Questions for today: Who do you need to forgive this week?.

Verses to look up: Ephesians 5:1-2, Romans 12:1-2, Romans 3:23, Romans 6:23, Genesis 45:5

Prayer for today: Father, thank you for loving me and not reminding me of my sins. Help me to win with others by turning off the scoreboard of others' sins, and showing your love, instead of my bitterness. Fill my heart with forgiveness, and love, as you teach me to be more like you.

Prayer for this week: Dear Jesus, Thank you for a new day! A day that I can worship you, love you, and serve you! Thank you for helping me to win dependence upon you. Help me every day to take time to realize that it ALL begins and ends with you.

Thank you for helping me to "win within" by being a person of integrity. Help me to regularly examine myself and seek Your forgiveness for sin. Help me to realize that life is short and eternity is forever so that I will walk in obedience to you, letting go of all else that consumes me except for You.

Thank you for helping me to "win with others" by seeing them the way that You see them. Help me to love people and use things rather than use people and love things. Use me this day to influence someone for you.

Help me to continue to pray and believe for breakthroughs even when I don't see them. Thank you for the breakthroughs that have happened in my life and my church. May I be the person You want me to be and may our church be the church You want us to be. Let change begin in my heart and flow over to my home, my church, and my community! Amen