

Sunday Message Transcript: Pastor Rob Patterson
March 2, 2008 Bell Road Baptist Church

Scriptural Basis: Deuteronomy 6:4-9

Bases Loaded: The 'Billy Sunday' Sunday

To some people, Billy Sunday was America's greatest preacher. He preached to over 100,000,000 people (or at least 100,000,000 when you've added the same people who would come over and over to those tabernacles in different towns and cities where Billy Sunday preached.

Now, he looks like 'an engaging preacher', doesn't he?! He had these 'stances'... I don't know if I can do that one (takes a stance like the slide). He was a famous baseball player!

Anybody ever hear of Billy Sunday, would you raise your hand? Anybody go to hear him preach?

You know what he would have done? He would have preached against 'the sippin' saints' because he was against the use of alcohol. Why? --because he had become an alcoholic, when he walked in to the Pacific Garden Mission where he heard the Gospel being preached through the spiritual legacy of D.L. Moody (and before that, Mr. Moody's Sunday School teacher--Mr. ... Mr. Who?

Mr. Kimball. How many of you know the name of your Sunday School teacher; would you raise your hand? Now, I know the name of somebody's Sunday School teacher--it's Jesse. Is Jesse in the House? There he is--Jesse! Come on down. (laughter)

There he is. Jesse, I want you to come right on up to the microphone.

How many of you when you were in school had a rain day? How many of you had a rain day in school when you couldn't go out for recess? Did the teacher ever play Baseball with you?

Baseball is 'ask you a question from the History test that is coming up' or ask you some sort of question about Grammar and **if**, you answered the question, you got to go to First Base.

Jesse, are you a Sunday School teacher? (right in the microphone) "Yes"

Jesse, do you know that, even though Billy Sunday was against playing cards (and I would guess against dominoes) and against other kinds of 'attractions', he thought 'Baseball' was still good for the church?

So, you know, once in awhile, things come and go...

--How many of you are 'Card-playing Christians'? (We're being honest here.) Billy Sunday would be 'preaching' to you!

--I'm not going to ask 'How many of you are 'Sipping Saints'...but he'd be 'preaching' to

you!

You know, sometimes, some of the Social Issues, we've got 'STRONG PASSION' about...but even sometimes we 'change' here and there--but he said, "Baseball..."

You know what? I'd be against 'Baseball' if Baseball is gonna keep you out of church. I'd be against 'Football', if Football is gonna keep you out of church!

(jesting)...and that ol' Super Bowl--how 'bout it? Huh?

(Rob does the 'pitcher' stance--laughter)

How 'bout it?! Did it keep some of you out of church?! It did, didn't it? It didn't keep me out of church; I went to my 'Experiencing God' class.

But, somebody said, "You know, that Super Bowl Game was... Brother Preacher, that Super Bowl Game was kinda helpful to me in my Christian Walk...because I watched it..."

(Music Minister says 'Amen') AMEN...oh?

(pointing with the pitcher's stance)

Reprobate! (laughter)

Some said, (You know)

"Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is Freedom."

I think Billy Sunday is still a guy to remember because he went to the Pacific Garden Mission as an Alcoholic and he came out 'Saved--and 'set free' and it is probably important for him to follow his calling that "...anything that the Devil is for, I'm against!"

OK? That was one of his sayings.

But last week, when I quoted Brother Don Bisagno from this book, 50 Great, Soul-Winning, Motivational Sermons, and I was just reading about the spiritual legacy of a Sunday School Teacher (like Jesse). Jesse, who 'went out' like Teacher, Mr. Kimball, to find one of his students and just talk to him about salvation, about his soul, and to witness to him, and to offer to pray for him.

To think that Mr. Kimball was responsible for D.L. Moody getting saved and taking the Gospel to two continents, and to think that that would lead to someone getting saved who would start the Pacific Garden Mission...and to think that an alcoholic, Baseball Player would go into God's House, and would hear the Word...and to think that he had decided that "I'm gonna give my life to Jesus, and I'm gonna continue to be who I am..."

Hundred Million seats later, his ministry started to wane as he got older, and he couldn't 'pack the House' like he used to. But there were some who said,

"Brother Sunday--he fed me."

"Brother Sunday--I went to the altar as his Music Minister led in 'The Old, Rugged Cross'"

"Brother Sunday's ministry's always good to me--regardless what they say about him."

"Brother Sunday was responsible for changing my life."

One of those listeners said, "I want to be like Brother Sunday! I wanna storm up and down and preach the Gospel, as it has affected me!"

What was that guy's name?! (tapping on pulpit...)

Who?! (Jesse tries to answer...)

Nope. Were you here last week? Were you listening? (laughter)

Well, you know what? I'm getting older. I don't remember. I had it; it's not 'Mortimer Schneid'..but something like that.

(K.C. says 'Mordecai')

Mordecai Hamm! Mordecai Hamm!!

Mordecai Hamm said, "I wanna be like Billy Sunday!"

(takes the Pitcher Stance; Jesse chuckles)

It was a little guy named William Franklin--Little Billy Frank--that heard Mordecai Hamm...and Mordecai Hamm would never be Billy Sunday. He would NEVER be Billy Sunday, but there was something about Billy Sunday that he'd say, "I want to have something like what he's got!

--that Perseverance to "tell it like it is!"

I don't know the whole story because I've heard it told lots of different ways. But, one of the ways it's told is that they were getting ready to shut down the Revival because there hadn't been any salvations; hadn't been any action--and then Little Billy Frank got saved!

..and it wasn't just him. I think his buddy got saved too. Regardless, Little Billy Frank--the kid whose Sunday School Teacher had to correct him for throwing a Bible across the room in Sunday School Class--Little Billy Frank became the guy we know as Evangelist Billy Graham (who as far as I know has an unspotted record; who as far as I know was true to his wife who has gone on to be with her Savior--and she was picky about who she

would marry. She said, "Billy, I'm not gonna marry you unless you can tell me what you're gonna do with your life--what God has revealed to you. I want to marry a man who knows what God has called him to do. I don't want to just marry a Christian; I want to marry a Christian who's CALLED--who has PASSION for his calling."

(to Jesse) Would you like to sit down...or are you ready?

(Jesse: "Its up to you..")

Sunday School Teacher, Brother Jesse, you say, "It's up to me? You don't care?"

(interchange, flexible compliance on Jesse's part; I like it!Spanish Mission; TeamKid; Lexie)

Brother Jesse, this goes out to you.It was in a Sunday School Class today: a memory verse. Now, before you get nervous, this was a memory verse that a little boy named Jonah came up to me and said, "Pastor Rob, wanna hear my memory verse today?"

He told it to me. It was a shortened version of what I thought he was going to say--just a short, little phrase--from the BIBLE.

I said, "Where'd you learn that?"

"Sunday School."

I said, "Whose your Teacher?"

"Jesse."

Jesse, for First Base, (laughter) I want the words and the address to today's memory verse in your Sunday School class.

(Jesse: "Oh boy...laugh...Where's Jonah?")

(more playful interchange and flexible compliance)

Love...

I'm Pastor-Teacher ...Ephesians 4:11

"Love..."

"Love..." (lots of friendly banter and laughter).

"The Mother knows..."

(to Justine) "Would you go 'coach' him?"

This is what I've learned about our Church and our Church Constitution. Our Church Constitution is built--our Mission Statement is built on Baseball--with nothing given to

Billy Sunday for saying that Baseball's OK for Christians:

The First Base is getting someone to that place of asking Jesus to be their Savior. Joining the Church through confession of sin--through repentance and confession of Sin and asking the Lord Jesus to be your Savior. Then we take them on in to Baptism to First Base.

(meanwhile Jesse has been conferring with Coach Justine Klein) --She's the Batting Coach.

Justine: "Love the Lord, Your God."

Jesse: "Love the Lord, Your God."

Love the Lord, Your God! Run to First Base...(it's right there at the tree, Jesse...) Run to First Base! Let's give it up for Jesse! (much clapping)

You've got to stay there at First Base. I don't know...maybe none of you played Baseball at school but I think those were probably some of the greatest, enriching teaching sessions I ever had...because it's all about the Team. We really didn't cut each other down; and it wasn't against the Enemy--that's our Teacher! What's the Teacher want to do? --wants to drive something into our hearts: "God LOVES you...and He wants you to love Him."

Love the Lord, your God. We might start there. Love the Lord, your God with all your mind...When you think about things, love the Lord, your God and remember, He loved you when you weren't thinking about Him--but THINK about Him.

Love the Lord, your God with all your heart. Put all of your EMOTION into it! Love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your mind.

Love the Lord, your God with all your Strength! Worship your Creator in the days of your youth. Work while it is yet day for night cometh when no man can work. Love the Lord, your God with all your mind, with all your heart and with all your strength!

mmm...Do you love Him today? (somebody says 'Amen')

That's what they used to ask me when I first got saved---in the church---Do you love Him today?

Once in awhile, the preacher would just stop; he'd get all worked up

(pose in the pitcher stance)...He wasn't white. He was a little black guy. He wouldn't do that but he'd ask, "Do you love Him today?!"

...and we'd say, "Amen!" because the Yea and Amen is supposed to be reserved for that which is important.

(not 'we're all gonna have a picnic next week, Amen?!')

The Yea and Amen is supposed to be for "Yes, Lord. We're gonna love You with all our

hearts, all our minds, all our strength. With everything we've got, were gonna give you the fullness of who we are."

Aren't we, saints? (amen...amen)

Yeah, its by the Spirit of God that you say Amen. First Base: Jesse, I am so proud of you! (Chisty says: 'me too.')

Are you proud of your brother, Jesse (applause). He shows up for Sunday School and he's also involved in the Spanish Church. What is that called?

Iglesia Baustista de Bell Road. Yeah...and you're working it aren't you?

Yeah, and do you take some pleasure that Victor came? Yeah. --and his mother, Carmen?

Yeah, I do too. I didn't have nothin' to do with that...

...but O Jesse, run, run, run, RUN. Yes, Karla had a lot to do with it...and Elba--calling up mama and saying, "Well, maybe your won't understand much on Wednesday night, but your son, Victor, will. Now, some Sunday School Director ought to be thinking right now...Sunday School Teacher...thinking, "Victor! Give me that phone number! Show me where to go to get Victor in MY Sunday School class."

(pointing to Jesse) First Base. He's there. Maybe the Teacher is going up to the Blackboard--teaching about History or something--but you know what?

First Base is just waiting for someone to bring him on up to Second. Right? Now, he can't get on to Second Base by himself, now can he?

So, I'm gonna ask somebody to come on up ...

Paul Peterson, are you in the House? (clapping)

You know? I really wasn't hesitant to go on up (thinking as a child in school) because even if you don't know what's going to be asked next, you just give it your shot, you know? Its raining outside--you can't go out and play at Recess, you know? And this is better than the boring stuff. Right? Even though you're learning?

Huh...how does that work? You learn...and yet its not boring. How does that work?

How's that work, Saints? You learn but, for some reason, it's not boring?

Billy Sunday was doing his thing before there were Movie Houses all over the place--before there were a lot of other things to do. They said that he was on the 'Kerosene Circuit'. They had to light the Kerosene Lamps in those wooden tabernacles that the men of the Community would build just because there is going to be a Revival.

There's going to be a show in town and he might be kinda demonstrative but..."...you know, something about that Brother doing His thing His way reached some..." Out of that 100 Million seats that had been filled, there may have been some that scoffed; there may have been some that didn't like what was going on...but you know what? It led to Billy Frank...kinda.

I think maybe that Sunday School Teacher (maybe her name was Jimmie or something) maybe she said, "Now, young man, now that's a Holy Bible. You don't throw the Holy Bible across the room to a girl in your class. We don't do that!"

It's not just Mordecai Hamm who's responsible for the salvation of Billy Graham. That little Sunday School teacher--whoever she may have been (or he) had something to do with it too. Amen?! (AMEN)
Amen? Isn't that our theology. (Amen)

Brother Paul Peterson....

(Yes)

This isn't a trick question. It's not a 'rehearsed' question (like, you know, in the Democratic Primary--where we already know that answer.)

(Paul: most definitely)

In your opinion, what is the best church in Auburn, California?

Paul: 707 Bell Road Baptist Church. by far.

707 Bell Road! (applause) Follow-up question: Why?

Paul: Because it's absolutely changed my life.

707 Bell Road. The church at 707 Bell Road has absolutely changed his life!

Where were you baptized?

Paul: Right up there (pointing)...

Up there?

Paul: "...with my wife".

With your wife...and where is she today?!

Paul: "She is in jail."

Rob: "She's in JAIL....yet we baptized her! Why is she in jail?"

Paul: "uh..something she had done in her past."

Rob: "Something she did in her past but by coming to church, she's got the courage to face the past, and to take care of it.

To let the Blood of Jesus cover it and to give to 'man' what man expects, but 'before God', already forgiven." (amen...)

Amen? (applause)

Go to First Base. (Jesse..) Run on up to Second. (applause continues) Second is right up there in front of the Baptistry. We're getting ready for the Lord's Supper. All we're doing is preaching the Constitution of Bell Road Baptist Church. OK? That's all we're doing.

First Base is the Fellowship--membership--you got baptized, you got 'saved'--you and your wife got baptized, and you're at First Base.

Some people never make it to Second Base. Some people never make it there. Some get offended and walk...before they ever get to Second Base. Some get hurt (and rightfully so, they got hurt) but, instead of going to 'the Altar'--instead of going to the Bucket and washing the feet of the one who's hurt them--or instead of just facing what the Scripture says to do.

"You've got a burden that's too heavy for you. It's more than just 'your hurt' and it's more than just 'your offense'--it's the fact that you have a Thief who works against your good. That Thief is in your life--knows your number.

Maybe not the devil himself, but some little demon, some little minion who also works the Thief's Agenda::

--who comes to steal, from you, your joy.

--who comes to kill, from you, maybe even your life (looking at the guy on First Base), if he gets you to try crack.

We've got them both at First Base.

Rob: "Paul, --nice and loud--are you a member of a Sunday School Class?"
--nice and loud.

Paul: "Yes, I am."

Rob: "Yes, I am?! Do you wanna go on to Second? Though, you need someone to help you get on to Second. I need somebody. *Somebody...*"

Cerissa, you've been asked, in advance, to come. Come, let's work our Church Constitution.

See, Jesse's up there at **Second Base** which is '**Maturing the Saints**'. It's our Church Constitution--the very first thing you read: "The Mission of our Church is to bring them into the fellowship of our church through membership."

(pointing to First Base) --That's Membership. .

(pointing to Second Base) --That's 'Maturing in Christ'...and Jesse is well on his way. He's run these Bases a number of times in his life.

He enjoys the Game. He says, "It's OK! Let me be me; let her be her; let him be him...It's OK."

It takes all of us in the Body of Christ to bring a complete message. That's alright.

"Iron sharpened iron." --it's OK, even if it hurts. --it's OK, it's God's Way.

Teacher doesn't want to embarrass you by pitching you a question. Teacher maybe wants

to instruct other people; [Teacher] has enough confidence in you that you're gonna be able to handle it...but once in awhile needs to ask--just to make sure.

(eye contact with the Batter; then, man on First; man on Second)

Everything cool, guys?

First Base is **Membership**.

Second Base is **Maturity**. How does that happen?

--Joining a Sunday School Class.

Jesse not only joined a Sunday School Class--then, somebody started to get to know him in the church. He had been baptized but he had already moved from First Base to Second Base; He had already been baptized but now he needed to MATURE in Christ--knowing that some people never make it to 'maturity in Christ'.

I think we've got to keep running the Bases because sometimes, even at the age of 80, we've got to mature in Christ. That's why he's running the Base because something is still lacking in Jesse's life and witness. He wants to see **Iglesia Bautista de Bell Road** take off.

That's why he's teaching Sunday School. He wants to see little Jonah...He's being raised in a Christian, Home-schooling Family. Why take him to Sunday School? Isn't Mom and Dad enough?

Mom and Dad are plenty, yet they think he ought to be in Sunday School because they need more than Mom and Dad--they need the Body of Christ...and then, maybe some affirmation that what Mom and Dad are teaching is truly the Gospel.

Rob: "Cerissa, where were you baptized?"

Cerissa: "Bell Road Baptist Church."

Rob: "Have you joined a Sunday School Class?"

Cerissa: "Yes."

Rob: "Who is your teacher?"

Cerissa: "Dan Clark."

Rob: "Dan Clark. How long has he been pastoring? ...or Where did he go to Theological Seminary? Do you know the answer to those questions?"

Cerissa: "No."

Rob: "Is he qualified to teach?"

Cerissa: “Yes.”

Rob: “Why?”

Cerissa: “Because he knows the Word?”

Rob: “OK, that’s kind of a question: Because he knows the Word? Well, yeah, he’s getting to know the Word. One of the best ways to get to know the Word is to have people in your class who are going to challenge you every step along the way!

Some of the hardest times for a Sunday School teacher is to have a PK...or a TK (Teacher’s Kid). You know, they come to class looking for some fun.

“If church is boring, I’m at least going to have some fun with this teacher...(presumptive laughter) Hey, let’s talk about something that I already know the answer to, Teacher...”
...but that’s alright.

Rob: “Cerissa, you’re a brand-new, Baby Christian, really.
Where did you say the Sinner’s Prayer?”

Cerissa: “um...here. --Outside of the Church.”

Rob: “The same day, before, there was a Sinner’s Prayer led in here and you said it then too, right?”

Cerissa: “Yes”

Rob: “...but you sort of ‘confirmed’ it out there in front of the Church?”

Cerissa: (nodding affirmatively) “uh-huh.”

Rob: It seems like it was Tim Willette. He drove up and I said, “Hey, Tim, somebody just got saved!” (sound of slamming on the brakes) They stop the car; they jump out; they run over and welcome her to the family of God.
They give her a great, big hug.

(to Cerissa) “Run over to First;

(to Paul) “You, run over to Second.”

(to Jesse) “You--run over to the Cross. That’s **Third Base**. (clapping)

BASES ARE LOADED. Well, what are we gonna do?

Celebrate! Let’s bring ‘em on in. Someone hit a Home Run and bring ‘em all in. Four points, right? (See, I don’t know Football but I do know Baseball.)

Four points. If we can just get a Ringer to ‘C’mon in and answer the question.

We’ve got a man with a Doctor Degree over here. He could do it but he hasn’t been asked. It might trouble him.

Got a guy over here who knew the name of Mordecai Hamm. We could ask him. He’s sitting right next to his brand new, little sister in the Lord....(but saved here... well, through his witness--but while going to Bell Road)--played one of the ‘Fun Girls’. In fact, Mr. Mordecai Hamm-specialist has a Fun Girl on both sides--and yet, in the second row. Sitting next to the Director; sitting next to the Home School Mom. They’ve got the second row pretty well covered. [We] could call on any of them--I don’t think any of them would have a problem coming on up and answering a simple question.

..but instead of that, let’s just leave ‘BASES LOADED’. You know, we’ve run out of time. Not bring anybody in. Nope, no points today. In fact, everybody, pick up your burdens at the Altar and we’ll dismiss.

(someone quietly says, “no...no.”)

Some say it’s alright--No, we’ve got to do the Lord’s Supper though. So, let’s just close it down and not bring anybody in. Preach it?! (preach it...home Run...)

Well...I mean...that’s all I’ve got, people; that’s all I’ve got. That’s all I’ve got.

Hold on a second. Here’s a woman who’s in church and her husband has not come to church with her today. In fact, I’m in the same situation. Here I am in church, and I think, possibly for maybe only the second time in all the years of my marriage, my wife’s not in church with me today.

Could be because she’s already seen an Attorney and she’s filed papers.
(laughter)...Could be, don’t laugh! That happens!

That happens to preachers. It happened to Brother Stanley. It happened to Brother Stanley, and I’ll tell you, it tore that church up. His wife decided she didn’t want to be married to Brother Charles Stanley anymore. They worked through that, but man, it took years to work through it.

Brother Stanley, you know, he has been in the “Classroom of Suffering”...and there’s people who say, “I’ll never go back to that church because he’s still in the pulpit...and his wife has already filed for divorce. No matter what he says, his wife’s filed for divorce, he doesn’t have his house in order; I’m not going to listen to his preaching. I’m not going to listen to his teaching anymore.”

In fact, in this book I read that Billy Sunday...let’s see...what did he do that we could ‘send him home?’ I don’t mean that it’s the church’s job to steal, to kill, and destroy. Is it?! (no..) No, it isn’t. It’s not the church’s job to kill, steal, and destroy.

I read these words...and it's on the Internet, and I quoted it correctly:

“One evening a former Big League Baseball player, now alcoholic and broke, stumbled into the Pacific Garden Mission, heard the Gospel, and was converted. The fire of God stirred in his soul. He went from tabernacle to tabernacle, preaching....

Is that OK? ...Say, “Amen.” He's preaching--a converted soul preaching from town to town, tabernacle to tabernacle, is that OK? Say, “Amen....if it's OK with you.”

He's preaching from building to Revival, from tent to stadium, he's jumping off of pianos! Uh...(clears throat)..is that OK? (laughter)

It's Billy Sunday.

One says, “Sure.” and one says, “Huh?! What's that got to do with the Gospel?”

“Where's Jesus in all this?!“

“They don't even have a piano in the Bible. Why'd we bring that instrument in here? ...Let alone jump off it!”

But that's what the guy did for some reason. I don't know. I think it sounds like he got happy...(laughter)...jumping off pianos.

Turning over benches... Why would he do such a thing? Turning over benches. You know I what I heard about him? I was doing some 'googling' on him...He'd take his jacket off sometimes (demonstrating) –and **throw it down!**

Now, I don't know why...maybe to make a point. It might have been because he was 'hot' and thought, “I'm gonna make a point about *casting off everything* that weighs me down.

Maybe it's about David saying, “Saul, as good as your armor works for you, it doesn't work for me!”

I don't know why but the book said that he...he threw a Bible.

(reading from book) “Throwing his Bible, storming across the pulpit, he took America by storm. He became the most powerful evangelist known to the world to that day! He was the baseball player known to the world as Billy Sunday.”

(holding the book) It's right there; I just read it for you but it bothers me. In fact, if I saw him throw the Bible, I'd probably walk out. Even if he was making a point saying, “You know, some of you are making that Bible so 'holy' but you're not living by the pages. God doesn't care about that... 'that book'; he cares about the words being in your heart!” You get that... that book memorized in your heart...”

But, you know what? I did a google search: I put in ‘threw, Bible, Billy Sunday’ ... ‘...throw, Bible, Billy, Sunday’ and I could not find **any** instance of him throwing a Bible.

Then, I wonder...(holding up Don Bisagno’s essay)--I wonder if this guy just heard somebody else say it—because I’m telling my (associate) Pastor, Matt, I’m saying,

“Don’t give me secondary sources. Cite your source.”

What’s the ‘primary source? Sometimes we get it wrong when somebody says, “Well, you know, they told me *you did this.*”

“Well, I heard he threw a Bible.”

I don’t know if he did it or not. If he did, he owes ‘me’ and explanation. Why?

I’m not just going to kick him out and never speak of him again...

--because...Mordecai Hamm wanted to be like him; and he was sort of a hero.

...and you know what? Billy Sunday—as great as he was—and even if I say, “Amen, Amen, Amen.”—he’s still a sinner; he could’ve made a mistake, huh?

Maybe he did put a crack in the piano, and left it behind, and forgot all about it and they had to struggle to pay for it. Who knows?

Throwing a bench? Maybe it did weaken a leg. Who knows?

But, you know what? I tried to look for a primary source and I couldn’t find it! (holding up the book) This is a secondary source and he doesn’t even cite the source. There’s no reference to says “It was in a sermon; it was New York City—he needed to make a point. They were all alcoholics.

You know, sometimes you’ll do things at the Union Gospel Mission that would not be ‘acceptable’ on Sunday Morning at “The First Baptist Church of Such-and-Such”. It just wouldn’t be acceptable but, for some reason, the alcoholics are saying, “It’s changing my life. You go ahead, you preach; it’s changing my life right now. I’m gonna go forward; I’m gonna change my life—right now—the way you talk to me...”

(looking at the Loaded Bases) Wouldn’t you guys just like to come on Home? (yeah..)

Yeah? Too bad. (laughter)

There’s ten guys not here today...because...**Wolfgang Rosenau** won’t go to church on Sunday morning in his Home Church. Ten guys have been influenced because **Dan Clark**, Sunday School Teacher, won’t go to church in his Home Church today.

(wringing his hands) “Oh...everybody’s leaving the church!”
No.

Like the deacon who said, “If you’re sick, stay home.”

We’re kinda a weak, frail people. If you’re sick stay home. Do you know where my wife is? Home. Possibly for one of the very first times because she believes that; but we’ve always been around (maybe) more robust, younger people who don’t get sick. You know, as long as you’re not sneezing on them—and (sneeze) putting your germs all over them.

That lady was in The House right after having the baby...with the newborn baby! Even though we’d thought, ‘We’re not going to let anybody touch this baby for six months’

...but the 2nd kid, ‘Yeah, go ahead.’

3rd kid, ‘Please...’

4th kid, ‘See ya later...(laughter) Cough all you want.’

Shall we close it down before we bring ‘em home? (no...)

OK, well, I’ve got to tell you something: Ten guys aren’t here today...because of the influence—mostly—of **Dan Clark, Tom Ronk** (who played Gomer). You know, and if that’s all I told you, that would be plenty for the Devil to work with.

“Well, you know...I don’t agree with this; I don’t agree with that.”

“I don’t agree with this.”

“I don’t know—I heard...”

“I heard”—Secondary source; Tertiary source...

Until you hear it from the horse’s mouth, you might want to be careful, Saints.

Until they look you right in the eye and tell you the way it is, you might want to be careful!

--because Wolfgang...Let me redeem Wolfgang Rosenau. He didn’t really necessarily want to go. He likes coming to church—in his Home Church, but as did Deacon David Browning, they decided to support something that might be a little unusual:

Take ten guys from our church to Camp Cazadero and help the Camp Directors who are Senior (according to Dan Clark); “an old, senior couple who are kinda infirm—can’t get that camp in shape, but guess what? John and Judy (this elderly couple), their Sunday School Teachers are here today. [They] go by the name of Clyde and Faye.

Do you know who I’m talking about? Boy, if that’s an old senior couple, I wonder how old Clyde really is? (laughter) He looks like he couldn’t be a day over 80! (laughter)...but Clyde and Faye said “Yea and Amen—that’s good. You go ahead and

help John and Judy—like we helped them earlier in life as Sunday School teachers.”

* Like **Jesse** helped **Jonah**; like **Tim** and **Robin** are helping **Paul**; like **Dan** is helping **Cerissa**.

Run the Bases. Join a Sunday School Class. Get enrolled in a BellRoad University Class. Be a part of Outreach. Be part of **Maturing** the People of God. Be part of Discovering your **Ministry** in your local church.

That’s what Jesse is doing at **Third Base**:

Rob: **Jesse**, have you (nice and loud), Have you discovered your ‘niche’ in your local church yet?

Jesse: “Pretty much.”

Rob: “Pretty much? He might need some ‘coaching’. Maybe he’s not confident in what he’s good at. He might need some coaching. You’re in the Choir, aren’t you?”

Jesse: “Yes.”

Rob: “Who stands next to you?”

Jesse: “Faye.”

Rob: “Faye, is he any good?”

Faye: “He’s great!”

Rob: “He’s great! That’s a Third Base Coach (affirming laughter).”

(as Faye) ‘You just keep on singing’, she should say, “You just keep on singing. You’re great. You keep on singing. By you singing, it helps me to sing and, together, we get it.

Sometimes, we ‘nail it’ because we’re singing next to somebody. She’s a little nervous. I’m a little nervous but, together, we can look at each other and we can say, “Yea. Amen. We got it! We nailed it.”

Likewise, in the Church, if the Preacher is speaking Truth and you say, “Yea. Amen. C’mon...you help him. [You] say, “You’re nailing it. You’re not missing it, you’re nailing it.”

Ten Guys: Wolfgang, David Browning among them. I got a call today at 7:30 in the morning. I was on my webpage—just tweaking what I had written around 4:30 this morning and a phone call came (I was just fixing it up at 7:30). My son, Daniel, (who’s not here today—why? Because his Sunday School teacher took him, and Jeff Baldwin out

with a bunch of old guys—along with Wolfgang and compelled—what?—our drummer and our piano-player. Them are some fightin’ words!”
(to the Chief Musician) “Uh...I’m gonna come and take your drummer and your piano player away from you.”

--them are some fightin’ words that Brother Dan didn’t think about—that there was a fight, you know?

Just—“I’m gonna take some young guys to hang out with some old guys and we’re gonna have Church on a Saturday.

...and you know what? I think Brother Dan had it right because at 7:30, Daniel said, “Dad, if you’re not too busy...(I know my wife was lying in the bed, sick...and I **am** busy, but he said, “Dad, is it a bad time?”

I said, “No, its OK. What?”

(Daniel on phone) “If you’re not too busy could you share that we accomplished many tasks during this Mission Trip to Camp Cazadero? The Camp Director, John, made a list of twenty-five tasks that needed to get done. We completed twenty out of the twenty-five in ONE DAY.”

--and there was some JOY in the boy’s voice!

“I only have a partial list here, Dad, but we’ll give you the final list when it is compiled.

1. repair leak in water supply to the Pond
2. repair water line to the trailer supply faucet.
3. repair drinking fountain
4. remove pews from the patio and burn them
5. remove shade netting from patio cover
6. cut the goat pen in half and close in both sides
7. concrete stones around the campfire pit
8. run electricity supply in the chapel for overhead TV
9. cut up the tree in the parking lot
10. move the bridge, and other debris from the volleyball court
11. clean grille filters and hood in the kitchen
12. fill in the holes behind the walk-in refrigerator
13. fold 200 newsletters
14. trim inside the dorms
15. clean up debris between dorms 11, 12, and 13
16. clean the debris off certain dorm roofs

...And then, Dad, there were some others but they haven’t been compiled yet...but, even though it wasn’t on the list, the younger guys, we took it upon ourselves to clean up much of the grounds, especially the place of prayer.

There were fifteen guys working altogether. Ten of them were our guys from Bell Road and five others from Trinity in Vacaville.”

That’s a Sunday School teacher engaging (well, not Cerissa) but engaging a couple guys in his class along with some older guys.

Rob: **Clyde**, do you got the guts to come up to the—

Clyde: Can I call a Substitute?

Rob: He’s calling a Substitute. Who you gonna put in? (pinch hitter)
Faye! Let’s hear it for Faye. C’mon, Faye. (applause)

Pinch hitter. See, I don’t know Baseball. I just know it on a rain day.

Faye: I don’t know anything about Baseball.

Rob: It’s not a baseball question. It’s a great theological debate. (hit a home run, Faye)
Hit a home run. Um...Faye’s one of the—I think, one of the wonderful stars of this generation. (congregational AMEN and applause).

Phyllis and Tom knew Faye and Clyde as Sunday School teachers themselves. And I would have just lumped them in the same category. I would’ve said, “They’re all a little older than me.”

(looking at Phyllis at Tom) ‘cuz I mean, they’re mature for their age..

(looking at Faye) ...and they’re—well, never mind. (laughter)

Ha, I got a laugh. You guys are getting it.

Faye: “You keep on saying, ‘You’re Eighty.’ That’s where we are.”

Rob: “No, he’s 81, isn’t he?”

Faye: “Well, Yes...”

Rob: “..and we’re not going to say your age.”

Faye: “80”

Rob: “80?”

Faye: “We are going to say it.” (laughter)

Rob: “You don’t act over 75.” (laughter)

Faye: “Thank you.”

Rob: “No, I really like it when we get from the seventies into the eighties. I really do.
Faye: “I do too.”

Rob: “...and I love it when we get from the eighties into the nineties. I love it.”

Whew. This is important...today, Ladies and Gentlemen, because some people don't understand this kind of preaching. I mean, I don't even play Baseball. My testimony isn't as rich as some of the other people's but, you know what?...God's given me the passion; I have been known to climb up on a piano and jump on the rafters and climb up to the pinnacle of the church—I did that once—and got in trouble for it!
(laughter) I did. I got in trouble.

(stern question) “What's happening in the Youth Group?”

It's a good thing that I can't reach anything if I jumped off this one. OK?

--But I would if it would grab somebody's attention in a positive way.

Rob: “Faye, you have been faithful in Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting. You've taught ‘Experiencing God’. You've promoted Iglesia Bautista de Bell Road—you've supported it in prayer. You've been faithful in your own Sunday School Class where you're not the teacher.

A low estimate—how many times do you think you have shared the Lord's Supper with Saints, many who have come and gone. Some have gone on to Heaven. Some you've long forgotten even though they remember *your* name because you were their teacher—and you can't keep track of them all.

Low estimate—how many time do you think you may have shared the Lord's Supper?

Faye: “Enough that if that grape juice was wine, I'd be floating up somewhere.”

Rob: “Why don't we all go, ‘HOME RUN’...and would you run the bases, dear? HOME RUN. Bring 'em on home. Bring 'em on home—all the way. Faye, Faye. Honey, Honey, how old were you when you got saved?

Faye: “28.”

Rob: “Wow. You've seen a lot when you get to the age 28. When did you start teaching Sunday School?”

Faye: “When I was 28.” (affirming laughter)

Rob: “What theological school could she have possibly gone to in order to teach Sunday School? (some suggest a Runner for Faye) Faye, do you want a Runner?

Faye: No, I'll do it. (she walks from 1st to 2nd base)

Rob: Faye, how old were you when you got---you gotta go up to the Baptistry, Honey— Oh...around the Drum Set. (in character) *'Somebody ought to preach against Drums in the Church!'* You know, I like the drummer in the church. I love the drummer in the church. I missed the drummer today. But, you know what? It's too bad. He was busy helping guys finish 20 out of 25 jobs in one day.

(to Faye who is 'rounding third') "How old were you when you were baptized?"

Rob:" You got baptized, like immediately, and you discovered your ministry. Hold on a second, Faye, at that Third Base, 'Discovering Your Ministry in the Local Church.' Out of everything that you've done in the local church since you were 28 years old, what do you think your 'niche' in the church is--more than anything?"

Faye: "I'm a teacher."

Rob: "She's a teacher. Still? You're a teacher right now, right? Did you have any students today? (shakes head) Your one student is home sick, but there's a kid named Victor that your coach at Third Base (Jesse) can help you with."

--go stand at home....—

Brothers and Sisters, this church needs to have JOY. You've only gotta listen to me, basically, once a week, right? I only work once a week and I work too long then, right?

But, I want to tell you something—the JOY of the Lord is 'getting to know Jesse' and finding out he's much different than Faye but 'he's teaching' and 'she's teaching'; She's not too old to teach. He's not too uneducated or lacking enough of a calling to teach. We have invested ourselves and they're both quality teachers. Saturday morning, there's going to be a Teachers' Fellowship (a Reunion) and I expect they'll be there if they possibly can.

But what's YOUR NICHE in the Body of Christ? Have you gotten from First to Second Base? Have you gone from Baptism into Maturing in Christ? Where you can say, "I've paid my dues." Second Base is really about 'Paying your dues.'

I've left the childish things behind. I've grown on to maturity and then, when you get there, then you learn, "Maybe I ought to try teaching—even if it happens, in like 2 days,

You just got saved; Somebody calls you, "Will you be a teacher? I will provide you with an orthodox training manual and if you just 'work the plan' and don't go off into spurious books but just 'stick to the quarterly', you'll learn at the same time as you're teaching others.

If you say, "Yes" to that—or whatever 'that' might be--

"Will you try just strumming your guitar; I'll give you the songs—I'll help you with the chords. We're gonna teach you some new lyrics to some old progressions. If you'll stick with me and submit to the authority of a 'godly authority', you'll be able to get all the

way to Third Base and ‘know your niche’ in the church.”

According to our church constitution—according to our ‘Mission Statement’ that’s at the top of our constitution, we also want them to ‘run on Home’—and that is, to discover ‘your mission to the world’ (outside the four walls of your church).

What is your ministry?

Somebody says, “My ministry is the woman’s shelter.”

Maybe another says, “Well, our ministry for 15 years has been the Union Gospel Mission—and then our daughter graduated and her ministry is now down in Mexico at a deaf school.”

“Well, my ministry is to be a businessman in the marketplace—a very ‘salty presence’ around some ‘salty characters’.

What’s your ministry to the world outside of you? I think that both of these two (Faye and Jesse) “OK, the Spanish neighborhood (there’s a couple of them even within walking distance, though it be a long walk to 707 Bell Road), that’s something we should do—even if week after week after week we pray, and we sing, and we listen to a Spanish sermon—and we do it faithfully week after week and so far all we’ve gotten is one little nibble from a lady who can’t speak English but her son does and we got him to TeamKids on Wednesday nights.

Is that enough for these two experienced Pros to keep running the race?

Yeah. Is it their Life Mission? Is that what they’re going to do the rest of their lives in the world outside of the church? Maybe not but, at least, it’s more than just ‘taking care of us.’ It’s thinking about them who have even gotten saved yet—those down at the Union Gospel Mission, those little children down at the deaf school, those teenagers who are heading for a gang (if they’re not already in a gang).

(moving toward the center of the playing field)

...and in the Center of the whole thing is **Worship**.

Membership, Discipleship, Ministry, Mission, and all the way along, Worship.

Worship, Worship. Everything is about Worship:

“Loving the Lord your God with all your heart, all your mind, all your strength—with everything that is in you.”

That’s our Church Constitution. Should we vote it down? I don’t think so. That’s what I read before I ever went to ‘step two’ with the pulpit search committee. Can I affirm this Church Constitution? Will I work diligently to defend this constitution and will I give it more than ‘lip service’? Will I work this Constitution. Yeah.

Thank you, Brother Jesse and thank you, Faye. Will you give them a 'thank-you'. I don't know. I'm kind of a little culturally mixed up once in awhile. Cultures are strange institutions. Sometimes we think that our culture (the way we've done it) is the right one and that's called Ethnocentrism. Cultural Relativism where you think the way you do it is the right way and everybody else is kinda weird.

(approaching the Lord's Table) ...but this is one thing that is done a little differently from Body to Body (the Lord's Supper) but I think that God has given us the 'Culture of the Church' that the Bread should 'become' the Body of Christ in our hearts and the Juice should become the Blood of Jesus in our hearts.

I'm going to ask our servants to come forward and to lead us in the Lord's Supper today.

The sermon I was going to preach never happened and I'm sorry about that but I'll be back two weeks from today. Pastor Matt will be teaching on Worship next week.

1 Corinthians Chapter 11 verse 23. The subject of today's sermon was to have been the Apostle Paul and his conversion. The Apostle Paul, years after he was saved, wrote to the Church at Corinth—a church he had planted.

For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me."

For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep.

---some comment---

But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world.

So then, my brothers, when you come together to eat, wait for each other.

