

Life Church Boston Weekly Sermon...
Michael Dixon 3/11/18

GETTING INTO
THE GAME

AND OUT OF THE
STANDS OF OUR
FAITH



WHERE ARE YOU RESIDING? IN THE STANDS OR ON GOD'S FIELD?

- ✘ What is the difference ?...
 - + Faith, Hope and Love I Corinth 13 are the hallmarks of those on the field- Good Soil Matt 13
 - + Fear & Lack of understanding, real Roots, preoccupation on worldly things- Distracted.

GOD IS NOT LOOKING FOR FANS BUT FOR PLAYERS

- ✘ The Lord made Disciples and said go make more, not converts or Religious people. Matt 28
- ✘ Do not get entangled in the game outside the Game... II Tim 2:1-7 Like a Good Soldier, Athlete or Farmer.
- ✘ Gideon had his 300 who where in the game, the other 31,700 were “fans” wanting the championship but not the fight.
- ✘ If God was picking a team, would you make it?

A GOOD TEAM PLAYER KNOWS WHAT POSITION THEY PLAY AND DOES THEIR JOB

- Gideon and his 300
Players don't question
The coach, especially

When he is picking the team. Jesus did not pick everyone, He even did anti Altar calls...

Discouraging people who couldn't hang. Faith is getting on the field, religion is staying in the stands. Faith requires following the coach, Religion is following an interpretation of rules, or even a team. No suffering required...



FAITH

- ✘ Faith-Fearlessly following the rules of the Game and the game plan set up by the coach.
- ✘ Hallmarks of team Play...
 - + “I only do what I see my Father (the coach) doing”- Jesus
 - + “Ye of little faith” the Captain of the team before he had to go to teammates who had some set backs.
 - + That dude has faith- the captain to an opposing team member who understood how to follow the Gameplan

FAITH FOLLOWS

- ✘ I have decided to follow Jesus- A great Hymn of Praise
Written by a Indian Missionary Sadhu Sundar Das
was about to commit suicide by throwing himself on
railroad tracks and He gave God one more chance to
reveal himself. That Night he had a vision of Jesus who
opened his soul to the truth. He told his father, who
denounced him, his brother tried to poison him, they
threw poisonous snakes in his house, he received
Episcopal religious training (and learned about hymns)
but they didn't accept him and discouraged him from
going to Tibet, where he felt he was called. On one of
those journeys he heard about Nokheng, a Garo man, a
tribe from Meghalaya which then was in Assam, a part of
India.



I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS



- ✘ Nokseng was a Garo man who followed Jesus to the end. This Story brought me to tears as I looked into it... From Wikipedia: Nokseng, along with his family decided to follow Jesus Christ in the middle of the 19th century through the efforts of an American Baptist missionary. Called to renounce his faith by the village chief, the convert declared, "I have decided to follow Jesus." His two children were killed and in response to threats to his wife, he continued, "Though none go with me, still I will follow." His wife was killed, and he was executed while singing, "The cross before me, the world behind me." This display of faith is reported to have led to the conversion of the chief and others in the village.^[1] The fierce opposition is possible, as various tribes in that area were formerly renowned for head-hunting.^[2]
- ✘ To this day the Garo People -population over 1 million in India are predominantly Christian! This is Faith in action...

BEING ON THE TEAM OR THE STANDS

- ✘ What are characteristics of being on the field?
- ✘ What are Characteristics of being just in the stands as a Christian?
- ✘ What is the difference between 1st world and 3rd World Christianity?
- ✘ What are the challenges of both? What can we learn from each other?

BIBLE STUDY TIME GEN. 46-50

- ✘ Manasseh and Ephraim
- ✘ **48** Some time later Joseph was told, “Your father is ill.” So he took his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim along with him. ²When Jacob was told, “Your son Joseph has come to you,” Israel rallied his strength and sat up on the bed.
- ✘ ³Jacob said to Joseph, “God Almighty^[m] appeared to me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and there he blessed me ⁴and said to me, ‘I am going to make you fruitful and increase your numbers. I will make you a community of peoples, and I will give this land as an everlasting possession to your descendants after you.’
- ✘ ⁵“Now then, your two sons born to you in Egypt before I came to you here will be reckoned as mine; Ephraim and Manasseh will be mine, just as Reuben and Simeon are mine. ⁶Any children born to you after them will be yours; in the territory they inherit they will be reckoned under the names of their brothers. ⁷As I was returning from Paddan,^[n] to my sorrow Rachel died in the land of Canaan while we were still on the way, a little distance from Ephrath. So I buried her there beside the road to Ephrath” (that is, Bethlehem).
- ✘ ⁸When Israel saw the sons of Joseph, he asked, “Who are these?”
- ✘ ⁹“They are the sons God has given me here,” Joseph said to his father.
- ✘ Then Israel said, “Bring them to me so I may bless them.”
- ✘ ¹⁰Now Israel’s eyes were failing because of old age, and he could hardly see. So Joseph brought his sons close to him, and his father kissed them and embraced them.
- ✘ ¹¹Israel said to Joseph, “I never expected to see your face again, and now God has allowed me to see your children too.”
- ✘ ¹²Then Joseph removed them from Israel’s knees and bowed down with his face to the ground. ¹³And Joseph took both of them, Ephraim on his right toward Israel’s left hand and Manasseh on his left toward Israel’s right hand, and brought them close to him. ¹⁴But Israel reached out his right hand and put it on Ephraim’s head, though he was the younger, and crossing his arms, he put his left hand on Manasseh’s head, even though Manasseh was the firstborn.

JACOB'S "BLESSING" OF THE 11 OTHERS

- ✘ Joseph gets a double portion.
- ✘ Ephraim and Manasseh- Jacob blesses the 2nd Born... Like himself
- ✘ Dan is a viper...
- ✘ Not mentioned in Rev. 7:5-8
- ✘ These were prophetic utterances not merely "blessings" one reason why they were not taken lightly. They could not be revoked- like with Esau and Jacob...
- ✘ Next week Exodus and Baby Moses