



The Teaching Ministry of Pastor P.A. Harvin

Men's Bible Study: It's Time to Step Up to the Plate

Part 1: Leaving the Dugout

Dugout: a low shelter at the side of a baseball field, with seating from which a team's coaches and players not taking part can watch the game.

- Designed to keep you close to the game but still not in it
- Designed to give you a place to prepare for reentering the game
- Designed to allow you to be encourage the team until your name is called to go in

Close but Still Not In

- ❖ A lot of men hang out around the field but still never get on it.

Prepare to Go Back In

- ❖ If you were in and got taken out, it's time to address what brought you to the dugout to begin with.
 - It's time to learn the lessons our mistakes should have taught us – **Prov. 26:11-12**; Pro. 14:16-18; 1 Cor. 10:12; **Heb. 12:10-11**
 - It's the place where we have to get coached up – Pro. 15:5, 32-33
 - It's where we learn while watching others – Phil. 4:8-9
 - It's where you have to own the mess you made for the team – Jon. 1:4-16; **Joshua 7:10-26**

Your Conduct in the Dugout Matters

- ❖ While you wait your turn, can you encourage those in front of you? Luke 22:32
- ❖ Have you realized that the team can play without you? Esther 4:14
- ❖ Do your actions tell the coach that you can be trusted in the game? 1 Tim. 1:12
 - It's where you should develop an appreciation for being able to get back on the field
- ❖ Are you a team builder or a team destroyer? 1 Samuel 15:10-26

God Is Calling Men Out of the Dugout

Innings in the Life of David

Now let us look at some innings in the life of this powerful man in whom scripture calls "...a man after God's own heart..." (1 Sam. 13:14).

The Call from the Dugout called Obscurity – 1 Samuel 16

- ❖ He was a blessing to Jesse in the dugout but God had more for David
- ❖ Your ability is not in your presentation but in the manifestation of His Power in and through you...1 Sam. 16:7

No Longer the Batboy – 1 Samuel 17

- ❖ David splitting time in the background playing for Saul and tending his father's sheep – 1 Sam. 17:15
- ❖ **Though he is not in charge, he is faithful in his responsibilities – vs. 20 (left sheep with a keeper) – Luke 16:12**
- ❖ What drove David was not being seen or merely being on the field. It was his passion for the things of God – 1 Sam. 17:26
- ❖ He had heart for the task at hand – 1 Sam. 17:32
- ❖ He decided what God gave him was enough – 1 Sam. 17:39

Homework: Benched but Anointed

Study your Bible this week and find an example of where David was put "benched" or got off track but God still gave him another chance