

20260810 Lector Report

The heart of a team

When looking at sports dynasties, multiple answers could suffice depending on which era you is most relatable to you.

The Yankees led by Babe Ruth, Lou Gehrig, and the rest of Murders Row; the Celtics with Bill Russell, John Havlicek, and Red Auerbach; the Patriots with Tom Brady; the U.C.L.A Bruins led by the Wizard of Westwood, John Wooden; or the favorite of my teen years, the Big Red Machine driven by Pete Rose, Johnny Bench and the other five starts on the 1976 MLB All-Star Team.

There are others we hold dear which could rightfully bring a lively discussion.

But which of these truly grabs the heart and which athlete was the “heart” of the team?

The elation of climbing the summit and the heartache of an early dismissal from the championship playoffs are both based on emotion that begins in the heart.

Is it based on the athletic abilities of the players or the impact they made in our lives?

When the dust settles, what have we truly gained from the emotional rollercoaster?

The championship lasts one day, and then the process starts over. God’s victories are eternal.

Deuteronomy 4:29, But if from there you seek the Lord your God, you will find him if you seek him with all your heart and with all your soul.

God comes to us to be part of his family, and blood is thicker than water.

The bond within a family will withstand more adversity than a team may face and survive. A team is a collection of many personalities and agendas that will likely crumble over time for no other reason than losing interest or the novelty wearing off.

Why do we compete and desire competition? It could be a deep philosophical question, or maybe the basis is our ego. We all like to win.

For someone who says winning doesn’t matter is likely on the losing team often and has decided that to be their excuse.

Some do not compete out of fear of losing and avoid the situation. But what if I gave you a 100% chance of victory? Would that pique your interest?

People are willing to play the lottery with a 1 in 500 million chance to win, and they believe they have a chance to win.

What if you had a 1 in 1 chance to win? Are you buying a ticket?

Psalm 60:12: With God we will gain the victory, and he will trample down our enemies.

So, let me ask again: are you buying a ticket, yes or yes?

The best part is that the ticket is free, and the only string attached is you wanting to spend eternity in God's house as part of His family.

Things change in our lives. Most likely, we are not the same person we were 20 years ago.

Are you the same person you were when you got married or started your career? Probably not, but that does not mean it is a bad thing.

We change. Hopefully, it is a good change. But there are situations where we had to change because we made a bad choice or decision that had lasting effects.

We Change. God doesn't

James 1:17: Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

What a comfort.

I have a friend, Tom, who grew up in New York, but went to college in the Midwest. Whenever he flew home for breaks or holidays, his father would meet him at the gate in LaGuardia Airport in New York, and he always wore the same hat. When Tom saw that hat, his heart and mind immediately shifted to, "I'm home."

God does not wear a hat; He wears a crown. And although we have never seen his face, we have been in His presence and have felt his grace and loving arms around us.

That person carrying too many bags of groceries. The person needing someone to hold the door. The person who is homeless, needing a comforting look showing them that someone does care. The child who has made the same mistake for the 20th time, and you correct them for the 21st time while smiling back at them. That person who is facing addiction, feeling they have no reason to live, until that hand reaches down to help them to their feet, pulling them from darkness.

These are all members of God's family, and He is the heart of His team.

Are you willing to be the heart of his team when others cannot find him?

Vivat Jesus.