

# The University Heights Messenger

June 6, 2010

## Lessons From A Bad Call

In American Major League Baseball there have been a grand total of 20 perfect games pitched since statistics began to be kept. A perfect game is one in which the starting pitcher completes the full game without giving up a hit, a walk, or hitting a batter. Not one player on the opposing team touches base against him the entire game.

Last Wednesday evening, Armando Galarraga was just one out from adding his name to that historic list. The final batter, representing the 27th out and perfection, hit a slow ground ball to the right side of the infield. The first baseman was forced to vacate his post to chase the ball. Galarraga sprinted over to cover first. Considering what was riding on that out, I'd imagine he'd never run so fast or hard in his life. He caught the ball and stepped on the bag a full step before the baserunner reached it. However, the umpire called the batter *safe!* The 21st perfect game was ruined by perhaps the worst call I have ever seen!

When the game was over it became instantly apparent that no one in that stadium felt nearly as bad as the umpire who made the call. Having seen the replay, he recognized how bad he'd messed up and what he had cost Galarraga who'd scrapped for twenty-six consecutive outs. Galarraga himself felt horrible *for the umpire* as the man came to him with tears welling up in his eyes to beg his forgiveness. Galarraga gave it.

Interestingly enough, not everyone has been so quick to forgive the umpire. On sports talk radio a group seems to feel that there exist certain unforgivable trespasses in life and this umpire is guilty of one of the worst. There seems to be a consensus

among them, "We will never forgive or forget this."

That made me think. That umpire had not committed adultery with Galarraga's wife. He had not stolen property that belonged to Galarraga. He had not reviled or swindled him. He had simply botched a call which is admittedly painful at the moment, yet ultimately means absolutely nothing. Yet that call is unforgivable? Boy, am I glad they aren't my judges.

I suppose that if the umpire had done any of the other things I just mentioned those folks would consider it even worse, or at least I hope they would. If a bad call cannot be forgiven, certainly adultery, theft, reviling, and swindling can be even less forgivable. Not in the eyes of one Judge. This Judge had an apostle named Paul write the following in 1 Corinthians 6:9-11. **"Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."**

After listing these sins that can keep a person out of the kingdom of God, he reminds them that at one point they were engaged in those things. However, they had been washed, sanctified, and justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of God. In a nutshell, all of this means that they had been forgiven of these horrible sins.

They had been forgiven in the same

way in which that umpire was forgiven, by approaching the one sinned against and apologizing for the crime. Obviously, there is more involved in a person's apology to God than there was in the umpire's apology to Galarraga. In that case it was a simple, though very contrite, "I'm sorry." After that the two went on their separate ways and may never cross paths again, except in the annals of baseball history where this umpire will unfortunately be remembered as the one who ruined Galarraga's perfect game.

When a person comes to God with a contrite heart to make apology for a life of sin, there can be no parting of ways after that. They go the *same* way as a person contacts the blood of Jesus Christ and determines to allow God's desires to guide their lives. Of course, an individual will not be forced to stay with God but will need to make that decision anew each day, bear fruit unto the Lord, and thus prove to be His disciples.

Some truly terrible men, guilty of horrendous and heinous crimes against both man and God, finally found themselves washed, sanctified, and justified. This is so only because the greatest Judge refused to say, "There are just some trespasses I will not forgive." In fact, as I understand Scripture, the only sin that cannot be forgiven is the one for which a man will not repent.

So yes, the umpire made a bad call, a terrible call, and baseball historians will remember what happened on June 2, 2010 for a very long time. But an unforgiveable call? Hardly, and thanks be to God for that!

### IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

**Esmeralda Agustin** continues struggling spiritually.

**Glenn Kimberlin** remains house bound.

**Glen Davis** is continuing his testing after suffering another seizure.

**Sandra Russell** is battling against a terrible cold that has tried to evolve into pneumonia. She is on antibiotics to fight the pneumonia.

**Ruel Baker** is struggling with extreme shortness of breath and fatigue. It is caused by the advancement of his heart disease.

**Robert Brundige**, Richard's brother, is in Parkside Manor in Cynthiana dealing with some issues. **Sarah Brundige**, Richard's mother, is in Cambridge Place Nursing Home and in need of our prayer.

**Reid Braswell** has been given less than six months to live. Let's continue to pray for he and his family through this difficult time.

Let's also remember **David Day and his wife, Michelle Oxendine, Gail Stein, Shannon Gilbert, Ron Catchen, Chuck McDavitt, and David Blakeman.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS:

Our Summer Series is just a few weeks away. Let's start making our plans now to attend.

#### BIBLE READING SCHEDULE FOR 6/6-6/12:

**Sunday:** Ruth 2-4, Ps 117, 1 Cor 11

**Monday:** 1 Sam 1-2, Ps 118, 1 Cor 12-13

**Tuesday:** 1 Sam 3-5, Ps 119:1-8, 1 Cor 14

**Wednesday:** 1 Sam 6-8, Ps 119:9-16, 1 Cor 15-16

**Thursday:** 1 Sam 9-10, Ps 119:17-24, 2 Cor 1-2

**Friday:** 1 Sam 11-13, Ps 119:25-32, 2 Cor 3-4

**Saturday:** 1 Sam 14, Ps 119:33-40, 2 Cor 5-6

#### SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM. "I have been crucified with Christ"

Sunday PM. Premillennialism 1 (Intro. and land promise)

#### CLASS INFORMATION:

Lesson 19, section I