

Children's sermon: March 6, 2011

**"Brian"**

Are you excited about spring training baseball????

Any of you playing baseball or softball this spring and summer?? Yes ----- little league baseball:  
where kids have fun ... and parents go NUTS!!

You probably wonder how baseball got started? Well ... as always ... I am here with a bit of history.

Years ago there were only two teams.

Here is Fred's team ----- a little plastic thing called a bat ... a round plastic thing called a ball.

(Enjoying this so far????)

There was only one other team ----- THE BRUISERS!!

Here is their bat ----- big, solid, made of cold metal.

And their ball? ----- hard as a rock ... a real LEAGUE BALL!!

Only these two teams ... and their season lasted 9 games.

Every game ----- the "bruisers" just beat-up on Fred's team. They had no chance.

By the end of the summer ... the "bruisers" are 9 and 0 (9 wins, 0 losses) ... and, of course, Fred's  
team is 0 and 9 (0 wins, 9 losses).

Now, we talk about life not being all about "winning" and "losing" .... but nobody likes losing every game.

I don't think Jesus would even like being 0 and 9.

By the end of the summer ... Fred's team looks like this: bent, beat-up, torn apart ....

Well, this is a new season.

Fred and his team-mates look at each other.

*HERE WE ARE ... BEAT-UP AND BENT ... 9 MORE GAMES AGAINST THE BRUISERS ...  
LOOK AT US ----- NOBODY IS GOING TO WANT TO BE OUR COACH ... **NOBODY!!***

Suddenly they hear a voice ... **I WILL BE YOUR COACH!!**

Who are you??

My name is BRIAN.

Why do you want to coach a bunch of "losers" like us?????

**YOU ARE NOT LOSERS ... I BELIEVE IN YOU ... YOU NEED TO BELIEVE IN YOURSELVES ...  
NOW LET'S GET BUSY AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS "LOSING ATTITUDE" YOU HAVE!!**

My friends ... I wonder how Fred's team ... with their new coach ... will do this year?

I guess we better stay tuned!!

We do know this. *They have a coach who believes in them ... this is a pretty good start.*

The season hasn't even started ... and they already look better.

We all need people who believe in us. It starts with an amazing God ... who believes in all of us.

He shares his son with us ... and this humble carpenter believes in us.

This is a good start for all of us.

Here is your own bat ... your own ball ... reminders of a team and a coach who  
will never give up this season.