

“Keep On Swinging!” / June 21, 2015

Key: **Green is “On the Screen”**. **Yellow is “Video”**. **Aqua is “Special Emphasis”**.

Good Morning...Welcome...

Title Slide – “Keep On Swinging!”

Leo Durocher - Hall of Fame Player 20's - 40's - “Baseball is like church. Many attend, few understand.”

Babe Ruth - “Never allow the fear of striking out keep you from playing the game!”

Tommy Lasorda - “No matter how good you are, you're going to lose one-third of your games. No matter how bad you are you're going to win one-third of your games. It's the other third that makes the difference.”

Babe Ruth said, “Yesterdays Home Runs don't win today's games!”

Hank Aaron said, “Whether I was in a slump or feeling badly or having trouble off the field, the only thing to do was keep swinging.”

The context of this Father's Day, this weekend my son is competing in a baseball tournament, MLB in full swing (pun intended), this sermon is not just of swinging a baseball bat, but swinging your best in our life, our family, our ministry, our careers, our all - for our Dad!

2 Samuel 23:8 - 17 David's Mightiest Warriors

8 These are the names of David's mightiest warriors. The first was Jashobeam the Hacmonite, who was leader of the Three —the three mightiest warriors among David's men. He once used his spear to kill 800 enemy warriors in a single battle.

9 Next in rank among the Three was Eleazar son of Dodai, a descendant of Ahoah. Once, Eleazar and David stood together against the Philistines when the entire Israelite army had fled. 10 He killed Philistines until his hand was too tired to lift his sword, and the Lord gave him a great victory that day. The rest of the army did not return until it was time to collect the plunder!

11 Next in rank was Shammah son of Agee from Harar. One time the Philistines gathered at Lehi and attacked the Israelites in a field full of lentils. The Israelite army fled, 12 but Shammah held his ground in the middle of the field and beat back the Philistines. So the Lord brought about a great victory.

13 Once during the harvest, when David was at the cave of Adullam, the Philistine army was camped in the valley of Rephaim. The Three (who were among the Thirty—an elite group among David's fighting men) went down to meet him there. 14 David was staying in the stronghold at the time, and a Philistine detachment had occupied the town of Bethlehem.

15 David remarked longingly to his men, “Oh, how I would love some of that good water from the well by the gate in Bethlehem.” 16 So the Three broke through the Philistine lines, drew some water from the well by the gate in Bethlehem, and

brought it back to David. But he refused to drink it. Instead, he poured it out as an offering to the Lord. 17 "The Lord forbid that I should drink this!" he exclaimed. "This water is as precious as the blood of these men who risked their lives to bring it to me." So David did not drink it. These are examples of the exploits of the Three.

This morning, I want to unpack a simple message to you on this Father's Day. Ladies, thought we celebrate the term Dad this morning, the points that we will focus on today - applicable to Moms and Dads, teenagers, Grand Parents, those that are single or married, with kids or without!

I want to give you 3 points taken from the lives of David's mightiest men that served around him, Jashobeam, Eleazar, and Shammah. These men gave their lives not for their one pleasure, not for their own well-being, but for the cause of their King!

Pray

1) Keep swinging when you are tired! Vs. 10

As a dad, as a mom, as a Christian we have to ...

- Keep praying
- Keep reading
- Keep serving
- Keep giving
- Keep going

You are saying - I am Still Here!

- This is not being phony - it's real life!
- We don't see the miracles of the missionaries, because we don't persevere and take risks like they do.
- Remember Jesus said, "My yoke is easy, my burden is light!" Matt. 11:30

2) Keep swinging when you are alone! Vs. 11&12

Think of the great game of life and baseball - you are all alone no matter where you are.

- No matter where you are on the stage of life on the field of the game, you are alone. There are people backing you up, but you are in the spot light or behind the scenes - just you.
- Except for the power of the Holy Spirit, the comforter, promised by Jesus.
- Remember from our time together on June 2nd, "I'm all Alone" - In the midst of the loneliness, God makes the warrior. Alone causes you to Do, Focus, Fight, Long for God, Set a Standard, Do something for the King!
- Pour out your heart for the King, He turns our loneliness into Aloneness with God!
- Victory!

3) Keep swinging when you Stumble and Fall! Vs. 13-17

Even in the strongholds of life, God wants you to succeed and keep fighting for Him!

- Quick Down, Quick Up.

- **Micah 7:8 "Do not gloat over me, my enemies! For though I fall, I will rise again. Though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light."**

Jim Bouton - "A ballplayer spends a good piece of his life gripping a baseball, and in the end it turns out that it was the other way around all the time."

I am not sure what is gripping you this morning. Perhaps a sin that so easily trips you up, a hurt from someone in your life, a hang up in this game of life...No matter what it is, **Keep On Swinging (Title Slide)!**