

# Turning the Corner

By Dan Nelson

Ahhh... Spring is in the air and it's time for baseball. I enjoy playing softball and loved baseball when I was younger. I am a real fan of the game.

Most followers of the game have their favorite part, an aspect of the game that they find intriguing. It's usually hitting or pitching. It might be fielding. My favorite part of the game is more intangible. Although it never shows up in the stats or any scouting report, it often determines the outcome of a game. It's the part of base running referred to as "turning the corner". It refers to that transition between arriving safely on a base and heading for the next. It's that split second decision. If you stay you are safe. If you go you will be in scoring position. If you hesitate you are out for sure.

Turning the corner is so important to the game that teams put a coach at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> just to make sure it goes right. How the game plays out often hinges on that one decision. The scenarios are endless, but, simply put, the closer you are to home the better your chances of scoring and winning...unless of course you get thrown out.

So, how do you turn the corner? Not on the field but in life. How do you negotiate transitions that we all face. How well we do it has a profound effect on the outcome of our lives.

We tend to celebrate the achievement in our lives. Every spring we celebrate the achievement of graduation with High school seniors. It is a great accomplishment, but just as important to their success is how they transition in to the next part of their lives. Will they prosper at college in the fall? Will they succeed in their new careers? It will depend on how they turn the corner, how well they transfer their focus from their achievement to their next goal.

Jesus told a great story of a young man who turned the corner. He had found himself desperate, alone, and working a job so bad it didn't even provide enough for him to eat. He realized that where he had gotten himself was not where he wanted to be. Where he wanted to be was home. The bible says that he "came to his senses". But more than that, he "turned the corner. He headed for home, not certain of the outcome, but determined not to be stranded where he was.

The reunion that follows is a wonderful picture of Redemption. It is full of restoration, healing, grace and forgiveness. ..a pretty good outcome. It is one which never would have happened if he not turned the corner. These are the same things we can experience by leaving our own goals behind and turning our focus to Gods. We do this by a simple interaction with God. We admit our failures, express our belief in what Jesus has done, and ask that it be applied to us.

We all are faced with the same opportunity. We can live our lives in the past, focused on what we have achieved or where we are at. We can hesitate, do nothing and be stranded in nowhere. The third option is to go for it. We can turn the corner hard and go for something great, what God has for us. The choice is ours.

