

HARDBALL POLITICS AND SOFTBALL FAITH



***The Lord said unto my Lord, "Sit thou at my right hand
until I make thine enemies thy footstool.***

Psalm 110

As the Messiah sits at the right hand of glory and watches us fighting to restore Christian Values, he must shake his head in wonder.

The anger, the screams, the shouts.

Our zeal is unmistakable.

It's a modern Christian Crusade.

We really know how to play hardball, and we're definitely shaking things up.

"But what about your faith?" says the Master.

"What happened to the hardball?

You're into softball now?

You sing and pray and praise God...

... You give me a seat of honor... and then forget me as your Crusade proceeds."



But the focus on the Kingdom is softened.

God knows how to play hardball too.

It's called judgment.

When God judges, he starts with the household of faith, with us Christians.

He calls us to account.

He calls our crusades to account.

His revealing light exposes our hearts.

How can we restore the world around us, when our hearts are tainted with malice, anger, suspicion and pride?



How can we proclaim the kingdom of God when we are so deeply enmeshed in the dubious tactics of this world?

Heaven's call to repent is now visiting the earth with burning urgency. And that call to repent is coming first to us.

**How could we clean up this messy world...
... until our own hearts are restored to child-like faith?**



**Create in me a clean heart, O God!
And renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from thy presence,
And take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation,
And uphold me with thy free Spirit.**

(Psalm 51)

Prayer: Lord, have mercy on us, forgive us for wanting Christian values so badly that we stop living like Christians. Forgive us for crusading, for taking up the sword instead of the cross. Help us to trust you, to step away from hardball politics and softball faith, and instead trust in you to defeat the evil one... while we sit at your right hand, in your presence. We do admit our hearts are tainted with malice, anger, suspicion, and pride. These are not of you; with them we can't sit in your presence. Rescue us from them. Restore our childlike faith and trust in you. Create in us clean hearts, renew a right spirit within us, keep us in your presence... filled with your Holy Spirit, uphold us, and restore us with the joy of your salvation again. Amen.

Message: Richard E. Bieber July 2021

Featured Artists: Illustrations (cropped) by Luis G. Rendon at luisgrendon.com. Second two pieces by Michael Cook at hallowed-art.co.uk

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