



COMPLETE THE PLAY

by Julie Caldwell | Competitive Edge Int'l

... Our good news didn't come to you just in speech but also with power and the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction... You became imitators of us and of the Lord when you accepted the message that came from the Holy Spirit with joy in spite of great suffering. As a result you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The message about the Lord rang out from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place... 1 Thessalonians 1:4-9

Years ago while coaching a college softball team, I noticed something interesting about several of my infielders. Numerous times they were in a position to attempt a double play, yet they only went for the first out—not even looking to complete the double play. Why were they satisfied with one out when they could have potentially had two? Why weren't they looking to relay the ball from second base to first?

Like me with my infielders, Paul saw the believers of Thessaloniki as "relay" stations. They not only received the gospel message, but sent it farther on its way. In receiving the message, they became the messenger.

Christ followers, we have received the greatest life-giving message of all—an opportunity to turn to God from our idols (people/things we worship or love more than God) so that we can know and serve the living and true God. The question is, has this good news stopped with you, or are you relaying God's way of rescue through Jesus? In other words, are you looking to "complete the play?"

EXTRA INNINGS

- 1) Have you ever literally or figuratively gone for only the first out? If so, what was your reason for not following through?
- 2) When it comes to sharing your faith in Jesus, why is it so important to "complete the play?" Is there anything that keeps you from doing so? If so, what?
- 3) Ask God to bring 1-2 people to mind with whom you could relay in a natural way the message of the saving life of Jesus this season. Then share with someone who will pray with you and ask you how you are coming along with completing the play. And look for opportunities to complete the play!



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