

## A Parable of a Baseball Team

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By Unknown Author

*The Kansas City Royals began their 2022 baseball season with high hopes on April 7, with Zach Greinke returning to the Royals as the starting pitcher, and their number one draft pick, Bobby Witt, Jr. making his debut. We wish them well, and we may even attend a few games this year.*

*Any team of any sport realizes the importance of working together – attendance, team work, sportsmanship, brotherhood, and talent. The very qualities that make a sports team successful are the same qualities that the local church needs to grow numerically and spiritually. With that in mind consider the following parable:*

### **Behold, A Ball Team...**

**Behold, a ball team went forth to play a game of ball.** Just as the umpire was saying “Batter up!” The catcher for the home team arrived and took his place. The center fielder and the second baseman didn’t arrive until the second inning. The first baseman didn’t come at all, but later sent his regrets saying he had to go to a chicken dinner at Aunt Mary’s. The third baseman likewise failed to show up having been up late the night before and he preferred to spend the day in bed. The left fielder was away visiting another ball game across town. The shortstop was present, but left his glove at home.

Verily, when the pitcher entered the box, he looked around to see his teammates and lo, his heart was heavy when he saw so many empty places in the lineup. The game had been announced and the visitors were already in the stands to see the game. There was nothing left for him to do but go ahead and pitch and hope for the best. So the pitcher tightened up his belt, stepped onto the mound, and did his level best to put one over the plate. But for some strange reason, he just couldn’t find the groove. Some of his teammates began to ride him for wild pitches and loud “Boos” began to come from the stands. At the close of the game, the home team (what there was of it) was mercilessly beaten. After hearing of the disgraceful defeat, the rest of the team decided that a new pitcher should be hired. It must have been the poor pitching that had cost them the game.

### **Behold, A Preacher Went Forth...**

**Behold, a Preacher went forth to preach...** but that’s another story!

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