

I Am Second

Real Stories. Changing Lives.

Park Plaza Church of Christ @ Brookside

Adult Bible Class

February 1, 2015

I Am Second

- Super Bowl XLIX

New England Patriots vs. Seattle Seahawks
Sunday, February 1, 2015 @ 5:30 PM (CST)
University of Phoenix Stadium, Glendale, Arizona

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- January 11, 2015
- Film: Bradie James – Linebacker for Dallas Cowboys & Houston Texans [3:31]
- Bible Passage: Romans 12:1-2
- Bible Passage: Matthew 4:8-10
- Bible Passage: Luke 18:18-21
- Bible Passage: Hebrews 12:1-3
- Film: Facing the Giants [Chapter 12]
- Film: Facing the Giants [Chapter 14]
- Bible Passage: Matthew 7:13-14

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- Bradie James – I live my life for God's approval. Trying to live up to somebody else's expectations, I'll never get there.

<http://www.iamsecond.com/seconds/bradie-james/>

Becoming an NFL football player is an achievement. Being one of the top players at your position brings respect. Playing for the Dallas Cowboys puts you in the spotlight. Bradie James qualifies on all counts. So naturally it was easy for him to be living a life that, as he says, was all about the Big “I.”

Why was he playing football? What was his real purpose in life? What could he do to discover the answers? An examination of the Bible showed him how to “renew his mind,” which in turn caused a change in his attitude and actions. Living to bring God glory brought changes to his life, even changes in who his friends were. This obedience to God’s plan is now reaping him rewards far away from the football field.

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- Bradie James – Quotes (Meaning, Purpose in Life)
 - “I was living a worldly life. I was living for myself. Doing the ‘Big I.’” [0:47]
 - “Why do I play the game of football? Was I playing for the right reasons?” [0:55]
 - “Started back really going to church. I started really trying to understand where my faith lies. I picked up the Bible and I started reading.” [1:27]
 - “I have to renew my mind. If I renew my mind, then my actions will definitely follow.” [1:50]
 - “God has given me this talent. If I do my best, and He receives all the glory, then that is really what it is all about.” [2:03]
 - “I live my life for God’s approval. Trying to live up to somebody else’s expectations – I will never get there.” [2:35]
 - “We all have a story, and we all have a platform. It’s funny how God can take what we think is a mess, and turn it into a message.” [2:51]
 - “I am playing for a bigger audience, a bigger purpose. It is all about Him.” [3:14]

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- Romans 12:1-2 – Living Sacrifices

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship.

Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – his good, pleasing and perfect will.

- How should we renew our mind so that we can be transform?
- How should we test and approve what God's will is?

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- Matthew 4:8-10 – The 3rd Temptation of Jesus

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor.

“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus, said to him, **“Away from me, Satan! For it is written: “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.”**

- What worldly splendor are you tempted by?
- How do you rebuke Satan?

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- Luke 18:18-21 – The Rich Ruler

A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

"Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.' "

"All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said.

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- Luke 18:22-25 – The Rich Ruler

When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

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- Hebrews 12:1-2 – A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

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- Hebrews 12:1-2 – A Great Cloud of Witnesses
Who are the “great cloud of witnesses”?

Who do you personally imagine as a witness?

How far are you willing to “run with perseverance”?

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- Facing the Giants – Chapter 12: The Death Crawl
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hi4AbU1ROn0>
 - “Your attitude is like the aroma of your heart. Your attitude stinks, means your heart’s not right.”
 - “I want to see your absolute best.”
 - “I want you to promise me you going to do your best.”
 - “I want you to do it blindfolded.”
 - “Forget the 20! You give me your best. You keep going!”
 - “Don’t quit till you have nothing left!”
 - “I want everything you got!”
 - “I know it hurts! It’s all heart from here!”
 - “Give me more! Keep going!”
 - “You’re in the end zone.”
 - “God’s gifted you Don’t waste it.”
 - “Can I count on YOU?”

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- Facing the Giants – Chapter 12: The Death Crawl

Can GOD count on you to PERSEVERE to

Give him your best

Don't quit?

Depend on your heart?

..... All while BLINDFOLDED!?

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- Facing the Giants – Chapter 14: Kicking Philosophy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HCvvC2O3soU>
 - “You act like you’re going to miss before you even kick the ball.”
 - “We’re going to have to change your whole kicking philosophy.”
 - “My mamma can kick it wide left and wide right! But that ain’t what’s gonna get you home.”
 - “It don’t have to look pretty. It don’t have to look smooth. It can look like a dying duck. But the ball has got to go through the middle.”
 - “You’re gonna have to choose the narrow way because that’s the only path that will get you your reward.”

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- Facing the Giants – Chapter 14: Kicking Philosophy

How often do we need to have our “kicking philosophy” changed?

- How often do we act like we are going to miss before we even kick the ball?
- How often do we worry about “kicking it pretty”?
- How often do we worry about “kicking it smooth”?

- All we need to do is keep our eyes on Jesus!
- We can stay on the narrow path and collect our reward!

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- Matthew 7:13-14 – The Narrow and Wide Gate

“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”