

M.V.P.

Super Bowl Sunday Night

Daystar Church – 2/5/06

Introduction:

A. Video Illustration.

B. Do we have any Shaun Alexander fans in the house?

1. He is an incredible athlete.
2. All time rushing leader at Alabama with over 3,500 yards, 50 touchdowns, hold 15 UA records & 3 SEC records.
3. This year for the Seattle Seahawks he gained nearly 2,000 yards and an all-time NFL record 28 TD's.
4. He is the league's reigning MVP!
5. And I hope he runs all over Pittsburg tonight!!!

C. I believe there are many other potential MVP's in the house here tonight.

1. Now you probably can't be the NFL's MVP, but you can be the Most Valuable Player in the game of life that you are playing.
2. There is a key role that you have been chosen to play.
3. You are extremely valuable to the plan of God for you and your family.
4. GOD WANTS YOU TO BE HIS M.V.P.

D. Tonight arm-chair quarterbacks from all across the nation will be telling the Pittsburg Steelers and Seattle Seahawks how to play the game.

1. About 90 million people will be watching.
2. Roughly \$4.5 billion will be bet on this game.

E. In a sense, this weekend is a sad commentary on how mixed up our priorities are in American society.

1. A 30-second Super Bowl commercial is going for \$2.4 million, when \$28 will feed, clothe & educate a needy child in Africa for a month.
2. Super Bowl tickets range in price from \$2,500-\$4,000 and the average American gave less than \$1,000 to the church in all of 2005.

F. Sobering isn't it? There are more important things than football.

1. Tonight we will learn some of those.
2. Tonight I want to show you how you can become the MVP in the game of life!

G. Some characteristics of an MVP in life:

I.The MVP is Committed.

A. Shaun Alexander carried the ball 385 times this year.

1. All but 28 times he got knocked down – sometimes by multiple 300 lb. men.
2. That means 357 times he had to just get back up and do it again.

3. In fact in the 2nd round of the playoffs he received a concussion.
4. What did he do? Just came back the next week and gained 132 yards and scored 2 touchdowns!
5. IT TAKES COMMITMENT TO BE AN MVP!

B. If you are going to be successful in life, you must be committed.

1. Sadly commitment seems to be a dying art.
2. Stick-to-it-iveness has become passé.
3. My dad has worked in the same mill for 40 years.
4. You just don't see that kind of commitment anymore.

C. Well, you can't check in and out on God if you want to find happiness and blessing in this life.

1. One of the New Testament's MVP's said it best:

Phil 3:13-14 NIV

One thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me

2. What about you? Are you straining ahead reaching for the prize?
3. Or are you just idly waiting/hoping to luck out in life.

Vince Lombardi said, *"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence. Once a man has made a commitment to a way of life, he puts the greatest strength in the world behind him. Nothing will stop him short of success."*

D. How committed are you to God's way?

In 1998 Quarterback Tony Rice led Notre Dame's football team to a nation championship. Before the season, sportswriter wondered whether Notre Dame could win with a quarterback like Rice, whose passing was often inaccurate. They didn't know that coach Lou Holtz had bought Rice a dart board and told him to practice throwing darts an hour a day. He was committed and focused.

E. You know, that's exactly what you have to do to find yourself in God's plan for your life.

1. Get up every day and focus on the goal before you.
2. Just keep throwing darts toward it.
3. Allow the Holy Spirit to empower you to hit the mark time and time again!

F. James said a double-minded person is completely unstable.

1. You can't be in today and out tomorrow.
2. You must choose to commit to God's will exclusively.

II.The MVP is a Game-Changer!

A. There are literally hundreds of physically superior, incredibly gifted, phenomenal athletes in the NFL.

1. However, the vast majority of them will watch the Super Bowl at home on TV.
2. But rarely will you find a league MVP not vying for the championship.
3. Why? Because the MVP has that inner will-power to make things happen for his team.

Vince Lombardi said, *"The difference between a successful person and others is not a lack of strength, not a lack of knowledge, but rather in a lack of will."*

B. An MVP is a Game Changer!

1. He's not there to warm the bench.
2. He's not there to just keep his job, to survive.
3. He's there to make his mark on the game!

C. The all-time greatest MVP would have to be Jesus.

1. He didn't ride the bench; play on the 2nd string.
2. No. He was a game changer!

D. Jesus:

1. Said destroy this temple & in 3 days I'll raise it up.
2. HE WAS A GAME CHANGER!
3. Woke up from his nap on a boat and found Himself in a hurricane – made the wind and waves lay down.
4. Opened up a boy's lunchbox – fed 5,000.
5. Found his disciples stranded at sea – walked on water.
6. Happened up on a funeral procession – raised the dead guy from the casket!!!

E. One thing is sure – WHEN JESUS GOT IN THE GAME YOU KNEW HE'D BEEN THERE!

1. He changed the game & so can you!

John 14:12 NIV

12 I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these

2. Hey pal – He's talking about YOU!!!
3. Why don't you get in the game and change it.

F. Tired of your family being in tormented confusion? Get in the game and change it.

1. Tired of your children being attacked? Get in the game and change it.
2. Sick and tired of being sick and tired? Get in the game & change it!
3. Tired of your finances failing? Get off the bench and be a Game-Changer!
4. Tired of being told you can't be anything better? Get out there and do something about it!!!
5. Be an MVP! Be a GAME-CHANGER!

III.The MVP Puts God First.

After the Dallas Cowboys had won the Super Bowl, Tom Landry made this observation, "The overwhelming emotion in a few days was how empty that goal was. There must be something more."

- A. Earthly goals will never satisfy eternal, spiritual hunger.
1. What's the best way to see success in life?
 2. Let's go to the MVP and some of his teammates for the answer.

B. Second Video Clip – Seattle Seahawks talk about putting God first in their lives.

C. Key – PUT GOD FIRST IN YOUR LIFE!

1. He literally has to be above all other goals & ambitions in your life.
2. Wealth, fame, family, career, pleasure, status...

Matt 6:33 NIV

But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

D. How do you get all the stuff? Put Him First... *“and all these things...”*

Conclusion:

A. Tonight is a night to take inventory.

1. Is there anything in my life ahead of God?
2. Sadly around the world tonight (at the Super Bowl) many people have their priorities completely misplaced.

B. Misplaced priorities lead to wrong choices.

1. These wrong choices open the door for destruction to enter our lives.
2. Why don't you SLAM the door tonight?