



## Stepping Up to the Plate

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**Scripture:** *Matthew 19:23–26, Romans 8:11*

**Key Idea:** Have you ever felt behind? Have you ever felt behind financially? Have you ever felt behind in a relationship? Have you ever felt behind emotionally? Have you ever felt so behind that you didn't know where to start? As a friend of mine said, "The reason I don't go to the gym is I'm so far behind. I don't even know where to begin."

The reality for many of us is there is probably one area where we are behind. And the more time goes by, we get further and further behind causing us to lose hope. These are what I call *Bottom-of-the-Ninth* moments—moments when we are behind, moments when we feel down and out.

If you've ever felt down and out, here's what we are going to discover in this series: *You may be down, but you're never out. There is still hope.* Sure, you may be behind. Sure, you may feel down. But you're not out. It may be the *Bottom of the Ninth*, but there's still a chance to turn this game around.

### I. Introduction

Today, as we begin a brand-new series, I have a baseball trivia question for you: *Have you ever heard of Francisco Cabrera?*

If not, before we leave today, you'll discover who he is and what you might have in common with him. So, hold that thought.

To help explain why we're doing a series called *Bottom of the Ninth*, let me ask you another question:

*Have you ever felt behind?*

For example, have you ever felt like the score between your "To-Do" list and you is:

To-Dos = 27 [Still]

You = 3

Or, how about this?