

Major League Baseball season has begun! There are 162 games to be played, and most preseason predictions don't pan out, but, if there's one thing baseball fans know, it's how to hope!

In honor of the beginning of the season, I offer you this baseball story.

When Boston Red Sox player Wade Boggs played third base at Yankee Stadium, one of the Yankee fans made it a personal mission to harass him. The man had a box seat close to the field and would torment Boggs with obscenities and insults for the duration of every game. Finally, Boggs decided he'd had enough.

As the man began his typical insult routine at the next game, Boggs walked directly over to the man, who was sitting with a group of friends.

"Are you the guy who's always yelling at me?" Boggs asked.

"Yeah, it's me. Whatcha gonna do about it?" responded the man belligerently.

Wade took a new baseball out of his pocket, autographed it, tossed it to the man, and went back to the field to continue his pre-game routine.

The man became one of Wade's biggest fans at Yankee Stadium.

Wade Boggs could have handled things differently. He could have asked for the fan to be removed; he could have returned insult for insult. Instead, he saw beyond the insults and offered his hand (or a baseball) to the man.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives some of his most difficult teachings. One of them says, "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also..." (Matthew 5:38-39). Most of us find Jesus' instruction to turn the other cheek when faced with hostility difficult to swallow, let alone follow. What would you have done if you were Wade Boggs? How have you handled insults in the past? What would you do differently?