



VERTICAL SPORTS

3D DEVOTIONAL

5-14 A Tale of Two Goats

Sports: Scapegoats in sports are very common, the player/coach/owner that everyone loves to blame losing or not being successful on. A scapegoat's goal is to place all the blame on one person so that everyone else can be spared blame or punishment. With many sports franchises it is often the head coach, player, or assistant that takes the fall so that everyone else stays in the good graces of the owner and fans.

Life: In school, work, and even with siblings, there are times when something bad happens and the blame falls on one specific individual. Brothers throwing the football in the house break an expensive ornament that their mom had as an heirloom, when the dad asks what happened to the two sons, the older brother places all the blame on the younger brother, shoving all the responsibility for the punishment on him as well even though he was the one that actually broke the ornament. Today we will look at a passage in Scripture that describes the beginnings of the term scapegoat.

Truth: In the Bible, specifically the book of Exodus. God has brought the people of Israel out of bondage in Egypt and God gives Moses commands to give to the Israelites and explains to them the sin condition that they are in, he gives them the book of the Law in Leviticus that explains how to follow God and flee sin. He also explains specific instructions for sacrifices and offerings. One specific day out of the year, The Day of Atonement, a priest would offer a special sacrifice for sins. The priest would take two goats and confess to God the sins of his people and then offer one goat on the altar as a sacrifice for those sins, and then he would take the other goat outside of the camp into the wilderness and set it free. The goat would be so far away from the camp that he would never return. This was a symbol to the people that their sins were forgotten.

GOSPEL CONNECTION: The Israelites were almost ruined by a golden calf right before this happened and now, they are rescued by two goats. Now they were not permanently saved by the goats this same sacrifice had to be made annually. It was symbolic and foreshadowing of the perfect final sacrifice that Jesus would finish on the cross.

Prayer: Let us be thankful for the fact that Christ took the punishment on our behalf and not only took our punishment, but no longer remembers the sins that we committed against him.