

Modern Idolatry

Sports, Hobbies, and Entertainment



Derek Jeter
#2 | SS | Throws: R | Bats: R
Born: Jun 26, 1974 | 6'3" | 195lbs | BIO

SUMMARY	STATS	SPLITS	MEDIA	FANTASY
GAMES	HR	RBI	AVG	OPS
137	4	41	.252	.606

Last 3 Seasons Career

Year	Team	AVG	AB	R	HR	RBI	SB	G	2B	3
2011	NY Yankees	.297	546	84	6	61	16	131	24	·
2012	NY Yankees	.316	683	99	15	58	9	159	32	·

Leisure as a Gift from God

- Every good and perfect gift comes from God (Jas 1:17).
- Though we can abuse it, God intends for our leisure to be a blessing because ...
 - It provides rest and refreshment (Gen 2:2–3; Exod 23:12; 31:17).
 - It teaches discipline (1 Tim 4:7–8; 1 Cor 9:24–25; 2 Tim 2:5).
 - It allows us to experience success and failure (Phil 4:11–13).
 - It promotes personal and family growth (Deut 6:7–9; Eph 6:4).
 - It gives us an opportunity to thank God for his care (Ps 103:1–5).

Signs of Idolatrous Commitment

- Idols are not only images of false gods; they can be divine gifts that we begin to worship (Rom 1:21–25; cf. Gen 22:1–19).
- What danger does leisure pose if we do not use it well? Sports, hobbies, and entertainment can lead to ...
 - Personal pride or insecurity (Jer 9:23–24; e.g., King Saul).
 - Jealousy or hate toward others (Prov 14:30; Jas 3:16; cf. 4:1–3).
 - Overcommitment or laziness (Eph 5:15–16; Prov 19:15).
 - Distance in our (family) relationships (Prov 15:17; cf. 1 Tim 5:8).
 - Corruption and apostasy (1 Cor 15:33; Eph 5:11–12; Ps 101:2–3).

Keeping Ourselves from Idols

- How should we approach sports, hobbies, and entertainment so that they do not become idols? (Cf. 1 John 5:21.)
 - Remind ourselves and our families/friends that God is the source of the good that we experience in this life (Jas 1:17).
 - Thank God for the blessing of leisure (1 Thess 5:18).
 - Evaluate our inner thoughts and emotions, our conversations, and our financial and time commitments (2 Cor 13:5; cf. Matt 6:33).
 - Use sports, hobbies, and entertainment as occasions to honor God and evangelize others (Matt 5:16; 1 Pet 2:12; 1 Cor 10:31–33).

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