

# Daily View

*“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13*

October 19, 2020



Young Brave's pitcher Kyle Wright suffered a historic loss against the LA Dodgers, allowing five hits and seven runs, all earned, to take the loss. It's "just a game," but for him, it was an embarrassing nightmare.

## Embarrassed to Tears

**I**n game three of the National League Championship Series, a rookie, Kyle Wright, was pitching for the Atlanta Braves against the LA Dodgers. If you follow baseball, you know that the Dodgers scored 11 runs in the first inning — a major league record. Seven of those runs were given up by Wright. Toward the end of this agony, the camera zoomed in on him and it looked like he was going to cry. He kept blinking his eyes. As much as I wanted the Dodgers to win, I really felt sorry for the guy. I guess I'm getting soft.

But you have to have a really hard heart not to feel sorry for a young man who is suffering a defeat like that in front of millions of people on TV. These are pressure-packed moments, and he was crushed. He left the game with an ERA close to 100 (a decent ERA is around 4 or under).

We've all had those deer-in-the-headlights experiences at some point in our life. We've all been embarrassed or had a run of bad luck that leaves us standing there, blinking our eyes, trying to hold back the tears. So we identify with the young Braves pitcher.

For some reason, this makes me think of the beloved apostle, Simon Peter. Remember this?

But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

*See the full context in Matthew 16:21-23*

Imagine a camera zooming in and we can see Peter's face, close-up. He's blinking rapidly, trying to hold back the

tears. His favorite person on earth just tied him up with Satan — *how embarrassing!* But that wasn't the last time he was embarrassed. Later, after he denied Christ three times, Jesus just looked at him and that, too, was enough to bring him to tears.

Peter was embarrassed once again when Paul "opposed him to the face" for hypocrisy. It's recorded in Galatians 2:12-13:

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For before certain men came from James, he was eating with the Gentiles; but when they came he drew back and separated himself, fearing the circumcision party. And the rest of the Jews acted hypocritically along with him, so that even Barnabas was led astray by their hypocrisy."

I've often heard people talk about Peter as their favorite apostle. Why? Because we identify with him. He was real; he was manifestly imperfect and his personality didn't permit him to hide his imperfections. But he hung in there and we love him for that.

I go out of my way not to embarrass myself, but I manage to do it anyway now and then. Just ask Christie (wait... maybe not). But Peter gives all of us hope! Just remember these episodes were never the end of the line for Peter. He always repented and moved on. It was Peter who wrote, "...but [the Lord] is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."

*II Peter 3:9*

If you listen, you can almost hear him saying, "*thank you, thank you, Lord...*" as he wrote that line.

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