

I heard in the World Cup qualifiers that Diego Maradona took the whole Argentina squad to church to pray for victory against Brazil. They lost 3 – 1. So why didn't God listen?

I'm often asked if I pray for victories for City. I'd love to answer 'only when we win'! But the truth is, I never pray for results. Why would God prefer City over any other team? I couldn't find any scriptural evidence to prove Jesus is a Leicester fan. References to foxes in the Bible are quite negative, and worryingly there's a lot of positive ones about sheep. In danger of discovering a divine preference for Derby, I swiftly finished my investigations dismissing them as immature!

So does God involve himself in football? The answer is resoundingly yes. No matter what walk of life you are in God wants to be involved with you. Take the story of Kaka, the worlds most expensive footballer; After a swimming pool accident he thought he may never walk again, but in his words through his faith and prayers he was healed. Linvoy Primus' book "Transformed" also tells of many accounts when he has prayed and God has helped him in his career. Two weeks ago, Geovanni at a conference in Manchester told 7,000 people he was asking God to help him score on Saturday – he did! Also I know of a Premiership chaplain who prays with the players before every game, but not about the results.

So why does God answer some prayers and not others? Well thousands of books have been written in response to that one. There are lots of things which influence the answer, but here's a clue to one of them: What is our motivation for our prayer is it out of compassion or greed? love or selfishness? and so on. When we pray God not only listens, but also looks at our hearts behind the prayer.

So do I pray for Coventry to play rubbish every week? No. That would definitely be the wrong motivation, and besides they seem to be doing that without any additional help anyway!!!

Enjoy the game. Encourage the players whatever. Be loud!
The Rev

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The views expressed above are the views of the author and not the views of LCFC.