



Monday Matters

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I Can't Get No Satisfaction

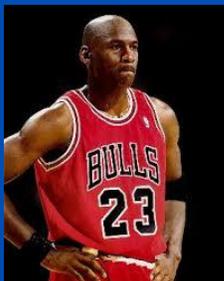
As a kid growing up I loved to play games. Baseball, basketball, tennis and football were fun physical games. I also liked board games of all types but my all-time favorite was Monopoly. I would play it with my Dad, friends, anyone and even by myself. As I got older I taught it to my sons and grandchildren.



More than 275 million games of Monopoly have been sold worldwide, is available in 43 languages and at least one billion people have played the game since it was first introduced in 1935. Its sole purpose is to bankrupt the other players by getting all their money and property. Then that person has the satisfaction of being the winner.

Michael Jordan has won six NBA titles, five MVPs, ten scoring titles, and 14 All-Star appearances during his years as a professional basketball player. But life off the court, particularly since his final retirement in 2003, hasn't been quite as satisfying.

In an interview with ESPN one gets the impression that Jordan isn't happy since his retirement. .



"I would give up everything now to go back and play the game of basketball," the Hall of Famer confesses. When asked how he replaces it, Jordan simply states, "You don't. You learn to live with it." Jordan might have stopped playing basketball, but the desire is still there. The fire remains, which is why he searches for release, on the golf course or at a blackjack table, why he has spent so much time with the Charlotte Bobcats and why he dreams of returning to play.

Today Jordan is involved with Nike as well as his own business ventures. Everyone wants something from Jordan and it usually is tied directly to his career in basketball. But he isn't playing the game anymore. He seems to feel adrift, wondering

who he is or what he is doing according to the ESPN interviewer. Jordan ponders, "How can I enjoy the next 20 years without so much of this consuming me? How can I find peace away from the game of basketball?" In his 2009 Hall of Fame speech, Jordan called the game of basketball his "refuge," the "place where I've gone when I needed to find comfort and peace." Ages ago the Rolling Stones released a song call "I Can't Get No Satisfaction." The words include "I can't get no satisfaction cause I try, and I try and I try." Maybe this is a song Michael Jordan thinks a lot about. There just doesn't seem to be satisfaction (peace) in his life no matter how hard he tries.

The true and lasting peace, the satisfaction in one's soul that we strive for doesn't come from bankrupting all the other players in a game of Monopoly. It doesn't come from being arguably the greatest basketball player ever. That lasting peace, total satisfaction doesn't come from the job, the amount of money in the bank account or achievements. It can only come from the Prince of Peace, Christ Jesus. The Bible says in 2 Corinthians Chapter 13 Verse 11, *"Finally, brethren, farewell (rejoice)! Be strengthened (perfected, completed, made what you ought to be); be encouraged and consoled and comforted; be of the same [agreeable] mind one with another; live in peace, and [then] the God of love [Who is the Source of affection, goodwill, love, and benevolence toward men] and the Author and Promoter of peace will be with you."* (AMP)



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