

COSTLY PONYTAIL

One of the truly great moments of bicycle racing history was the defeat of Laurent Fignon by Greg Lemond in the 1989 Tour de France. Fignon was in the lead going into the final time trial stage of the almost month long event. Lemond was sitting about one minute back in second place and to make up a whole minute looked insurmountable. As the time trial began, Lemond began to close the time gap on his adversary.

As the cameras switched between the two competitors, Lemond was obviously having the ride of his life while Fignon was struggling. After the finish, Fignon fell off his bike in exhaustion as he learned he had lost the 21 day long race by a mere 8 seconds! This was the closest finish margin in the history of the event.

After the event was over, there was a lot of analysis on what had caused Fignon's defeat. Much blame was placed on Fignon's trademark ponytail hairdo that you could see flapping in the wind. One aerodynamics expert analyzed that the pony tail could easily account for a minute or more of extra drag over the 21 days of racing and it was his conclusion that the pony tail had caused the loss.

There are many little things that can slow us down in this life. Perhaps a possession, a wrong relationship or a hobby, are taking time that we need to invest elsewhere. These things are not wrong in themselves but can divert us from our primary goal of living for Christ.

LK 18:18 A certain ruler asked him, "Good teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ¹⁹ "Why do you call me good?" Jesus answered. "No one is good--except God alone. ²⁰ You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not give false testimony, honor your father and mother.' " ²¹ "All these I have kept since I was a boy," he said. ²² When Jesus heard this, he said to him, "You still lack one thing. Sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me." ²³ When he heard this, he became very sad, because he was a man of great wealth. ²⁴ Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for the rich to enter the kingdom of God! ²⁵ Indeed, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." ²⁶ Those who heard this asked, "Who then can be saved?" ²⁷ Jesus replied, "What is impossible with men is possible with God."