

“Mercy Accompanies Grace to Complete God’s Love for Us!”

1 Timothy 1:15-17

INTRO

Immediately after crossing the finish line in the 1979 New York City Marathon, she received medical attention for an injured ankle. By crossing the finish line within a pre-determined range of time, she qualified for the 1980 Boston Marathon.

She was the first female to cross the finish line of the 1980 Boston Marathon. Everyone wanted to know more about this unknown runner who had seemingly come out of nowhere to win the prestigious Boston Marathon. Her name was Rosie Ruiz.

Eight days later, officials disqualified Ruiz’ victory because she had not run the full race. She was an official participant with an official runner’s bib and number. The bib contains a barcode. However, it was determined that she joined the race for only the last stretch of a couple of miles.

For the rest of her life, Ruiz never acknowledged her guilt. She passed away here in Palm Beach County on July 8, 2019.

Coming in first does not always mean that you are the winner! Sadly, there are many people who cheat their way to being first.

God wants us to first with Him. He sent Jesus into this world to teach us how we can be first with Him! We will discuss this in today’s message!

1. Coming in first does not always equal victory!
- Philippians 3:4-11
2. God overcomes our futility with His mercy!
- Acts 26:9-12
3. Jesus carries His team to everlasting victory!
- John 3:17; Matthew 5:17-20
4. Let’s take a victory lap!