

# A Boxer's Decision

One of the biggest boxing matches of the 20<sup>th</sup> century took place on Nov. 25, 1980, at the Superdome in New Orleans.

It was a rematch between Sugar Ray Leonard and Roberto Duran. Duran had won the previous fight and was the favorite the second time around. He had a record of 72 wins and just one loss, and he had won his last 41 fights. That was some winning streak.

The rematch was a close fight. Only one point or two separated the two fighters on the judges' scorecards. But then something unthinkable happened in the eighth round that no one expected. Roberto Duran turned to the referee and spoke two words: *No Mas. No more.* He quit.



He wasn't injured. He wasn't cut. He was frustrated and he'd had enough.

Here was a fighter who was one of the best to ever step into the ring. He won a total of 103 fights. But when anyone mentions his name today, the first thing that comes to mind is *no mas!* People remember the day he quit.

Let me be clear: I am no boxing fan, and I never had the courage – or the physical ability – to step into a boxing ring and last even one round. And we don't know the reason that led to Duran's decision, so judging him is risky.

The truth is, most all of us have had times when we felt like quitting – quitting a job, quitting the class you attend or teach, quitting on your marriage or a relationship. Some people even give up on God.

Unfortunately, every year thousands of people in this country give up on life itself. More than 959,000 – almost a million Americans – attempt suicide every year.

Some of the greatest heroes of the Bible thought about giving up. The prophet Elijah said, "Lord, go ahead and take my life. I'm finished" (1 Kings 19:4). Job declared, "Cursed be the day I was born" (Job 3:1). Jeremiah was known as the weeping prophet. He said, "O that my eyes were a fountain of tears that I might weep day and night" (Jeremiah 9:1).

Yes, these men overcame the temptation to quit and served God faithfully.

(more)

So when you are tempted to quit, remember: you are in good company. Hang in there. Keep serving. Keep being faithful. Keep doing what God wants you to do. Fulfill His plans for you.

Don't be known for the time you decided to quit.

*Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love Him (James 1:12 ESV).*

– Beecher Hunter