

Honour Others, Lower Yourself and Fully Rely On God.

# When "Sorry" Just isn't Enough!

Je suis désolé! Lo siento! Tut mir leid! I am sorry! Whatever language you speak, saying sorry might sound simple, but meaning it, is quite a different challenge, especially when you know that you are in the wrong!

My name was called and I entered the room nervously. The examiner looked up from her desk, paused and said "Bonjour. Avez-vous apporté l'histoire avec vous?" I panicked, went blank and responded with my usual phrase "Je ne said pas!" She wasn't impressed and



repeated her question. Still confused, I had to guess at a response. I went 50:50 and blurted out a "Oui!". She looked puzzled and raising her voice, for the third time asked "Avez-vous apporté I'histoire avec vous?" Certain that I would get it right this time I replied confidently "Non!" Exasperated and shaking her head she said in plain english..."Have you brought the story with you? To read from?" I felt so stupid - I had left it outside on my chair! I couldn't apologise enough as I quickly left the room to get it.

"Sorry" is just one word but it holds many different meanings. It might be said to cover up embarrassment, an admission of wrongdoing, an empathetic appeal to someone who suffered a tragedy, or an attempt at repairing a damaged relationship. Sometimes though, saying "Sorry" is just not enough. We need to understand WHY we are saying sorry.

#### **Beatitude of the Week!**

## #2. Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted. Matt 5v4

At first glance, because of the word 'mourn', it may seem that this beatitude is more about people who have suffered the loss of a loved one more than anything to do with being sorry. Of course God is with us through all of life's sadness and challenges but here in this beatitude, **Jesus is referring to a spiritual attitude that he wants his disciples and us to understand.** Jesus constantly spoke about people entering the Kingdom of God by choosing to do things God's way. When we choose not to (something the Bible calls 'sin') this affects our relationship with him and others. Until we get to that point where we are truly sorry, genuinely regret our action and actively do something about it, we are at a loss!

A few weeks ago, my wife and I went for a lovely walk along the Stiperstones, a rocky ridge in Shropshire. However, an incident occurred that lead to us falling out with both of us then walking in silence for half an hour! In that time I wondered when my wife would get



over the whole thing so that we could just get on with enjoying time together in the beautiful countryside. After all, it wasn't my fault!

The truth was though, even surrounded by amazing countryside and glorious weather, I felt sad, uncomfortable and on my own. Long story short, the key to the whole situation rested on one word 'sorry' and it was me that needed to say it. How hard could it be? Just say sorry for what had happened. But it wasn't my fault!



Of course, saying sorry and meaning it was the challenge. It was only as I considered the impact of my actions in that moment of loss or mourning for the temporary distance in our relationship, that I could genuinely express my sorrow for my actions, and in that moment both of us found comfort and I made a 'note to self' not to do the same thing again!

#### So What does that mean for us this week?

In this Beatitude we see that Jesus instructs his followers that those who 'mourn sin', feel desolate and show remorse for their actions both individually and collectively, receive God's comfort. When we don't, we rob ourselves of it.

Often we don't show grief or remorse for our actions because we are convinced it's not our fault! Sometimes we are even proud of the fact that we never say sorry. Yet imagine the impact of living out this beatitude in S.Peters School. It may not always be pleasant, but learning to say sorry, accept responsibility and express regret for your actions will not only expand your language skills, but also your ability to truly connect with other people and as Jesus was always talking about, ultimately, with God himself.

#### CHAPLAIN'S CHALLENGE:

- 1. In how many different languages can you say "I am sorry?" Ask others in class too.
- 2. Name some great places you have been, would like to go, for a walk.
- 3. Can you think of any situations where you needed to say sorry but just couldn't?
- 4. What's your attitude to this Beatitude? Crazy idea or great way to build relationships?
- 5. Take a look at a news channel and consider how people go against God's direction.
- 6. Design a poster for the Prayer Board displaying this week's Beatitude
- 7. How does the story of the Tax collector's prayer (Luke 18:9-14) relate to this beatitude?

### Read and Reflect: Psalm 51

Have mercy on me,<sup>1</sup> O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.



#### PRAYER:

Jesus we thank you for your example of living God's way. Father God, when we get things wrong and mess up, we ask that through your spirit we would be courageous enough to admit our mistakes, mourn over the consequences we may have caused and actively do something about it. Make us more aware of how our choices affect our relationship with you and enable us to seek your comfort in living right.

Thank you for the blessings you give to us. Amen.