

Baseball Team Devotion-Errors

Scripture Lesson: Psalm 103:11-12, 1John 1:9

Have you ever made an error? If you play this great game of baseball long enough you will have made numerous errors: missing a ground ball, overthrowing a base, dropping a fly ball, missing a pitch, not backing up a play, missing your spot and leaving a pitch right over the heart of the plate. There are many errors in baseball. An error is a mistake, a play that should have been made. The error that stands out perhaps more than any in World Series history occurred in the 1986 World Series between the Boston Red Sox and the New York Mets. Let me set the stage. It is game six the Red Sox hold a 3-2 lead in games and in the top of the tenth they score 2 runs to take a 5-3 lead going into the bottom of the tenth. With 2 outs, the Mets rally with 3 straight singles, plating a run to make the score 5-4. With runners on first and third with still 2 outs, Red Sox pitcher Bob Stanley uncorks a wild pitch. Kevin Mitchell scores the tying run and Ray Knight moves to 2nd base. Mookie Wilson works the count to 3-2 and then hits a routine groundball to first baseman Bill Buckner. The ball goes right through Buckner's legs and Knight scores the winning run. The Mets go on to win game 7, 8-5 to capture the World Series. Buckner was called a goat and left Boston in disgrace.

Our Scripture lesson teaches us that we all make mistakes, the Bible calls that sin. But if we confess our mistakes/sins God is faithful, because of his immeasurable love for us, to forgive us. He removes the sin as far as the east is from the west. Made any errors in the game of life? Is there some confessing we need to do to God?

Oh by the way there is more to the Bill Buckner story. On Opening Day 2008, Buckner threw out the opening pitch for the Red Sox and received a long loud standing ovation. I'd call that forgiveness.

Visual aid: Get a player ahead of time to miss a ground ball through his legs to illustrate Buckner's error and if possible use this you tube video of Buckner's first pitch.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W12h9gNxdpo>