

Scripture Reading: Mark 3:20-35

*The wonderful news is that our Lord is a God of mercy,
and he responds to repentance. —Billy Graham*

In May of every year, Australians submit themselves to a national experience of repentance. Sounds unusual, but it's true. First, there's National Sorry Day (this year it's May 26), which is followed by National Reconciliation Week, which this year is May 26-June 3.

According to one source, National Sorry Day, also known as National Day of Healing, is "an annual event that has been held in Australia on May 26 since 1998, to remember and commemorate the mistreatment of the country's indigenous peoples, as part of an ongoing process of reconciliation between the indigenous peoples and the settler population." The week of reconciliation which follows is intended "to celebrate the history and culture of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Australia, and foster reconciliation, discussion and activities."

This is a great idea, and I wish the United States had such a week-long period of national repentance. We have so much of which to repent: slavery, the treatment of Native Americans and ongoing racism for starters. I know there are some who may disagree about the need to do this at a national level, but I believe it would be a good thing.

But, having a pastoral heart as I do, I also think it would be good for every church in America to have a Sorry Sunday, and a Week of Reconciliation. Sorry Sunday would be a day in which we fervently repent for our sins on a personal level. We draw up plans to make amends. We approach those whom we have wronged. We make right the wrongs we have committed. Perhaps Lent would be a good time to designate one Sunday as Sorry Sunday.

This could be followed by a church-wide Week of Reconciliation. Devotional messages, reconciling activities, worship and prayer, vesper services, and more. Such a week could be a time of renewal and a refreshing of the Holy Spirit in the church.

But what about us? Perhaps we should think about having a Sorry Day once a month or once a week. But only if we find it hard to say, "I'm sorry," and offer an apology. We don't need a special Sorry Day, do we, if we already make it a habit to correct an injustice when it is done, or to apologize when a harsh word is uttered, or to offer the hand of friendship to the friendless?

Let's not forget how to say "I'm sorry," and let's not forget how to swallow our pride and make things right when things go wrong.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, I am sorry for my pride that sometimes keeps me from saying "I'm sorry."
Forgive me. I'm going to do better. Amen.*

*Blessings,
Lisa & Pastor Ben Metz*

Daily Bible Readings

Sunday: John 7-10
Monday: 2 Kings 11 — 14:20
Tuesday: Joel 1-3
Wednesday: 2 Kings 14:21-25;
 Jonah 1-4
Thursday: 2 Kings 14:26-29;
 Amos 1-3
Friday: Amos 4-6
Saturday: Psalms 58-60

Word Search: Life of Christ

This word search focuses on the life of Christ. Find the words listed below in the word search box. Words can be found horizontally, vertically, diagonally, backward and forward.



T	R	A	N	S	F	I	G	U	R	A	T	I	O	N
K	A	M	S	O	Q	B	E	T	H	A	N	Y	J	O
C	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	W	I	D	O	W
I	M	R	M	E	H	T	A	B	B	A	S	G	H	K
L	A	A	Q	M	E	L	A	S	U	R	E	J	N	J
U	R	C	G	Y	I	S	B	T	E	M	P	L	E	Z
Y	T	L	N	N	M	S	I	T	P	A	B	U	H	J
G	H	E	G	J	N	P	D	R	C	M	J	P	T	J
M	A	S	J	Q	H	A	D	R	A	Y	E	N	I	V
U	W	L	J	N	E	R	D	L	I	H	C	T	A	M
Q	G	N	I	T	S	A	F	R	N	C	P	X	F	R
R	E	P	E	L	T	B	K	N	O	M	I	S	M	P
H	G	O	S	P	E	L	S	J	M	J	E	S	U	S
O	V	K	R	E	T	E	P	R	E	W	O	S	R	F
N	A	G	N	I	H	S	I	F	D	W	N	F	S	L

WORD LIST

baptism
 Bethany
 children
 demoniac
 disciples
 faith
 fasting
 fishing
 Galilee
 gospels
 healings
 Jerusalem
 Jesus
 John
 Jordan
 leper
 Martha
 Mary
 miracles
 parables
 Peter
 Pharisees
 Sabbath
 Simon
 sower
 temple
 temptation
 transfiguration
 vineyard
 widow

COMPOUND INTEREST!

Directions: Each of the two sets of letters has two compound words hidden. Can you find the compound words? Example: AEGTWAY: gateway, getaway

BFHILOSW

DOOOPRST

June 2021

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Solution:
 Top — fishbowl or
 blowfish;
 Bottom — doorpost or
 doorstop.

Verse to Remember

“I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.”

—John 10:11