Making mistakes

The increased TV coverage of women’s football this year means young girls can be inspired to play and other members of the population are able to appreciate the skill of the women’s game. However, this means that mistakes such as Karen Bardsley’s uncharacteristic error in the recent England match against Belgium are beamed all over the world and replayed many times for all to see.

Throughout our lives we all make mistakes – wrong decisions, hasty words, unwise or unkind actions to name a few. Thankfully for most of us our mistakes will only be obvious to those around us. The Bible tells us that God expects us to make mistakes, to get things wrong. Although he wants us to admit our faults he then moves on, not holding anything against us and forgetting our errors. How that England goal keeper would like us to completely forget her blunder!

Mistakes will undoubtedly be made in today’s game; like us the players are not perfect. But mistakes are stepping stones to greatness - we can learn from them but they don’t define us. Karen is not a bad goalkeeper because she made an error but she will be a better one because of it. Can we graciously acknowledge our faults and those of others, using them to teach but not condemn?

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