

## REPENT OR PERISH

Luke 13:1-5

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss what it means to repent and why it is necessary.
2. Lk. 13:3 & 5 NKJV "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish."
  - a. Uprisings and rebellions were common at that time
  - b. We do not know about these Galileans but it was considered a great curse to have the blood of the worshiper mingled with the blood of the animals they were offering for a sacrifice
  - c. Jesus was asking them if these people were greater sinners than they were? His answer was no, and unless they repented they would also perish.
  - d. In verse 4 he tells about 18 who were killed when a tower in Siloam fell.
  - e. Then He asked if they thought these were the worst sinners in Jerusalem.
  - f. The application of this was that they would all perish unless they repented.
3. The Bible teaches that one must repent or perish
  - a. Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."
  - b. Acts 3:19 ESV "Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out"
  - c. Acts 17:30,31 ESV "The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, 31 because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."
4. Repentance is probably the most difficult command to obey. And it may be the most misunderstood of all God's commandments.

5. We can learn the truth about repentance and we can repent so that we will be saved.

## Discussion

### I. WHAT REPENTANCE IS NOT

In order for us to understand what repentance is, we must first understand what it is not.

#### A. Coming forward

1. Walking to the front of the building and writing a note on a card or talking to the preacher is not repentance
2. Repentance has to do with the mind not walking to the front of the building.

#### B. Conviction of sins

1. Conviction comes before repentance, but is not repentance itself.
2. No one repents unless they are convicted, but not all who are convicted actually repent.
3. Agrippa was convicted that he was a sinner by the message of Paul, but he did not repent
  - a. Acts 26:28 NKJV "Then Agrippa said to Paul, "You almost persuade me to become a Christian."
  - b. Conviction of sin does not equal repentance.

#### C. Fear is not repentance

1. When we think about our sin and eternity it ought to scare us
2. Felix is an example of one who was afraid
  - a. Acts 24:25 "Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you."
  - b. He trembled with fear - he was scared
  - c. But it did not lead him to repentance

**D. Sorrow For Sin is not Repentance**

1. To repent one must have sorrow in his heart for his sin, but you can have sorrow for your sins and still not repent.
2. Crying is not necessarily a sign of repentance - some repent and never cry - and some cry who do not repent
3. Herod is an example showing that sorrow is not repentance
  - a. Matt. 14:1-11 - He made a promise to the daughter of Herodias
  - b. When he knew John the Baptist would be beheaded because of his promise he was filled with sorrow
  - c. But he did not repent because he went on with the deed and John was beheaded!
4. Judas is another example - Matt. 27:3-5
  - a. He was filled with sorrow when he realized he was going to be responsible for the murder of Jesus
  - b. His sorrow was more like REGRET that he was caught in his sin!

**E. Sorrow and Confession of sin combined is not repentance**

1. Judas was very sorry for his sin
2. He came and confessed that he had betrayed innocent blood - Matt. 27:3-4
3. But he did not repent - he went out and hanged himself
4. He had remorse, regret, but not repentance

## **II. DEFINITION OF WORDS**

### A. Two words translated "repent" in Greek New Testament

1. Matt. 27:3 - Judas "Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders,"
2. Acts 2:38 - "...repent and be baptized...."

### B. Matt. 27:3 - meaning of the word repent

1. Feeling of regret or concern
2. "to care afterwards"
3. Remorseful - NKJV
4. Remorse - A deep regret or guilt for a wrong committed.

### C. Acts 2:38 - meaning of word repent

1. From two words "After" and "Mind" - It means to change ones mind afterwards
2. This has to do with sin - so it means to change ones mind in regard to sin and to therefore change ones conduct
3. Acts 17:30 Matt. 3:2
4. Repentance is a change of attitude, change of mind, or change of heart. This change leads one to a change of his will and his life.
5. This change is caused by godly sorrow and this is called repentance.

### **III. FOUR THINGS INVOLVED IN BIBLE REPENTANCE**

#### **A. Right attitude toward sin = Quit**

1. This attitude makes one sorry for his sins
2. II Cor. 7:9-10 NKJV
  - a. V. 9 "Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing."
  - b. V. 10 "For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death."
  - c. Godly sorrow is not repentance, but with godly sorrow comes the right attitude toward sin and the attitude is to give it up, or quit.
3. You turn from Sin to God in repentance! - Quit

#### **B. Right attitude toward God - Obedience**

1. Matt. 21:28-30
2. The attitude of the first son was "I will not go."
3. Then he repented and went
4. His attitude at the first showed no love, respect, honor and no obligation to his father. He would not obey him. He was selfish.
5. But he changed his mind, his attitude, and his will. He repented and went to do his father's will.
6. This is what must take place in the heart of the sinner.
7. The sinner has been selfish without respect or regard for what God desires.  
When his attitude changes toward God he will turn and obey God.

C. **Right attitude toward self - humility**

1. The sinner is self-righteous, disobedient and self willed.
2. He must come to himself and realize that he has been created to worship God, and to serve both God and man.
3. He must also realize that he can not live for himself alone, but that he is his brother's keeper.
4. His attitude must change like that of the prodigal son in Luke 15:18-19
5. This is an attitude of genuine humility.

D. **Right Attitude toward others** - Restitution

1. This means an attitude of restitution - Lk. 19:8 - Zacchaeus - restore 4 fold "And Zacchaeus stood, and said unto the Lord; Behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor; and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore [him] fourfold."
2. When one repents, he not only gives up sin, but is willing as much as is possible to make restitution for the sins of the past
3. Philippian jailor - Acts 16:33 "Washed their stripes"
  - a. Before this he had them locked in their prison cell without concern for their wounds. But now he was showing forth the fruits of repentance.
  - b. Illustration. In a Southern town a man robbed a bank. To make his escape from the blood hounds, he hid himself in the woods with sacks of money. In the dark loneliness he began thinking about his mother and the way she taught him to do better than this. The next morning he took the money back to the bank and took his punishment, saying he was sorry he took the money. This is godly sorrow.

#### **IV. WHY DOES GOD TELL MEN TO REPENT ?**

- A. God knows that all have sinned - Rm. 3:23
- B. God knows that sin will send us to hell - Rev. 21:27
- C. God knows that Jesus died for our sins - Heb. 2:9
- D. God knows that there is a judgment day to come - 1 Pet. 4:17,18 Rm. 11:22

#### **Conclusion**

##### **1. REPENTANCE IS NECESSARY TO BE SAVED**

- a. It must be preceded by faith in God and His son - Heb. 11:6 Mk. 16:16
- b. It is followed by confession of our faith - Rm. 10:9-10
- c. Then it is followed by baptism for the remission of sins - Acts 2:38

2. Repentance is an act of the mind by which the sinner decides to forsake his sins and turn to the Lord to serve Him the rest of his life.

3. Repentance is not only something we do one time in becoming a Christian - it is a way of life - a changed attitude toward sin all through life!

4. Rom. 2:4 NKJV "Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance?"

- a. God leads us to repentance through the preaching of His word
- b. It is His will that we all repent - II Pet. 3:9 ESV "The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance."
- c. But he will not force us to repent
- d. We have the power to choose between right and wrong
- e. It is up to us to determine for ourselves whether or not we will repent.

5. Will you repent ?

Sermon by Arthur Pigman - Sunday morning August 2, 2009  
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