



THE JESUS APPRENTICESHIP

Session 8:

What does repentance mean and what does it look like?

Teaching notes:

Luke 15 – the Prodigal Son made a decision, turned round and went back home

This is our story too:

- living our life our way and not under God's care & authority
- turning away from this to God

Repentance is central theme of Bible:

- 600+ times in Old Testament
- John the Baptist & Jesus called people to repent
- Peter in Acts 2:38 & 3:19 called people to "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away"

What does repentance mean?

Old Testament – two words:

- "Nacham" – turn around and change the mind
- "Sub" – turn, return, seek & restore (e.g. Jeremiah 24:7 "and they will return to me with all their heart")

New Testament:

- "Metanoia" – to change the mind, to change the way you think about something, military term to march in different/opposite direction
- Changing the way we think, talk, feel and act about something
- Decisive/purposeful/intentional change in direction
- Change in mind – change in thinking – change in attitude – change of feelings – change of values – change to way we live.

Three areas of repentance

1. Repentance leading to salvation

Repentance and faith – two sides of same coin – need both for salvation

Changing our mind about Jesus:

- From passive to active
- From one of many ways to The Way
- From interesting teacher & historic character to God
- From form of religion, rules, trying to be good to accepting Jesus as our Saviour
- Believing what He did on Cross and trusting in this work

Wholeheartedly following Him (e.g. Peter with coat in John 21:7)

Conviction of our sin, wrong attitude and rejection of God.

2. Repentance leading to holiness

Repentance vital for ongoing walk

- Accepting Jesus as Lord (as well as Saviour)
- Choosing to live for Him
- 2 Corinthians 7:10 “Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation” – not just born again, but full orb of God’s grace, being set free and living in victory
- Coming back to Him, faithful to lover
- Example of marriage – first and ongoing commitment (e.g. Jeremiah 3)

Conscious repentance brings unconscious holiness

a. Revelation

Conviction by Holy Spirit through godly sorrow:

- Joel 2:13 “Rend your heart and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for He is gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love”
- Ripping us apart & breaking our heart
- Calling sin what it is

No condemnation (Romans 8:1) or hating ourselves, but accepting consequences & trusting God to work for our good (Romans 8:28).

b. Responsibility

Taking responsibility for our sin (action, attitude, thinking)

- Not excusing
- Admitting, confessing and agreeing with God's view
- Try speaking it out (Hosea 14:1,2 "taking words with us and returning to the Lord")

c. Resolve

Decide to change direction – more than half-baked resolution

- Matthew 5:27-30 – serious action to be taken, to not leave door open
- Decisive action to do things differently

d. Return

Return to God, our Heavenly Father, our Lover & receive His embrace, restoration (e.g. Prodigal)

3. The fruit of repentance

Peter's wholeheartedness & Prodigal's restoration as son

Consider story of David after his adultery and murder in 2 Samuel 11 and 12, when confronted by Nathan:

- David angry at sin
- David confessed – simple and few words (from heart)
- David understood he had sinned against God
- David convicted & had contrite and broken heart (Psalm 51:17)
- David turned to God

Child dies and David worships – God lifted weight of sins through repentance

Fruit of repentance is holiness, but also deeper and more intimate relationship with God