

Repentance

“Before God can deliver us from ourselves,
we must undeceive ourselves.”

Repentance is a lifetime job.

- It's not hard to believe facts of gospel
- It's not difficult to be baptized
 - Repentance costs

I. Forewarning of Repentance

Individual command, Lk.13:3

- Barna: “If you could ask God one question, what would you ask?”
 - No.1 Q: why pain / suffering in world?
 - Lk.13: wrong focus; learn from pain
- What will happen to me if I don't repent?
 - A few perished in Jerusalem
 - These cannot compare to multitudes who will perish without repentance

Indispensable command, Lk.13:3-4

- Instead of asking *why*, ask *what* (object lesson).
 - Tragedy reminds us: get ready!

Inclusive command, Lk.13:3, 5

- All who do not repent will perish
 - No one expects a tragedy...

I. Forewarning of Repentance

II. Foundations of
Repentance

1. Scriptures, Jn.16:7-11

■ He convicts world of . . .

1. **Sin** (unbelief). Ac.2:4...37-38

2. **Righteousness** (vindicates Jesus).

• World: He deserves to die, Ac.2:22,
24...36

3. **Judgment** (satan on wrong side again;
doomed; world follows him...).

Ac.2:34-36

2. Sentence, Ac.17

³⁰ Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, ³¹ because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”

3. Sympathy, Ro.2:4-5

⁴ Or do you despise the riches of His goodness, forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing that the goodness of God leads you to repentance? ⁵ But in accordance with your hardness and your impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself wrath in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God.

- Jews: “God’s judgment applies to others; He is kind to us.”
- “God loves us just the way we are.”

3. Sympathy, Ro.2:4-5 (5:6-8)

1. **Truth**: should lead to repentance.
[Lord loved Judas]
2. **Sun** melts butter, hardens concrete
[both feel sun's warmth]
 - “People sin . . . nothing happens”
 - Uzzah, 2 Sm.6
 - 2 Pt.3:9

4. Sorrow (the kind God wants)

2 Cor.7:8-10

1. Worldly sorrow is worthless.
2. Godly sorrow is not repentance. Ep.4
3. Godly sorrow is directed toward God.

Ps.51⁴ Against You, You only, have I
sinned, And done this evil in Your sight —
That You may be found just when You
speak, And blameless when You judge.

5. Suffering

- Rv.3¹⁹ As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.
- Manasseh, 2 Chr.33:...¹² Now when he was in affliction, he implored the LORD his God, and humbled himself greatly before the God of his fathers, ¹³ and prayed to Him; and He received his entreaty, heard his supplication, and brought him back to Jerusalem into his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD was God.

I. Forewarning of Repentance

II. Foundations of Repentance

III. Features of
Repentance

1. Change of intellect. Job 42

2. Change of emotions

- King Saul never truly sorrowed for sins
- Judas' sorrow was remorse (Mt.27:3)
- David's sorrow led to repentance (Ps.51)

3. Change of will

- Change of mind → change of life

God, Lk.15

Sin, Mt.21:29

Word, Jon.3

Purpose, Lk.13:5

I. Forewarning of Repentance

II. Foundations of Repentance

III. Features of Repentance

IV. Fruits of Repentance

Fruits worthy of repentance, Mt.3:8

- 7: Pharisees – OT canon plus oral tradition
 - Lk.7:29-30
- 7: Sadducees – OT canon; did not take it seriously...or John. Political
- 8: not enough to be scared / or to get wet

“Anyone can do acts externally good, but only a good man can grow a crop of right acts and habits” – Bruce

Fruit, Mt.3:8

“Bear fruit” – pictures men as trees

- Mt.7:17-18, good tree
- Mt.12:33, tree known by fruit
- Ac.26:20, works . . . befitting repentance
 - Consistent with...proper conduct proves its reality; “show it!”
- Jn.15

George Gallup

“There’s little difference in ethical behavior between the churched and the unchurched. There’s as much pilferage and dishonesty among the churched as the unchurched. And I’m afraid that applies pretty much across the board: religion, per se, is not really life changing. People cite it as important, for instance, in overcoming depression – but it doesn’t have primacy in determining behavior.”

Lk.15:7, joy in heaven? Why?

- One sinner repented!
- Prodigal son had to come all the way home . . .
- Then he rejoiced with his Father . . .