

What Is Repentance?

“But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Which of these two did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus says unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.” (Matthew 21:28-31)

Repentance is not for people that have never done wrong. Repentance is for people willing to admit that they have done wrong, but making that admission is only the first step. As seen in the example offered above, repentance is not complete until we turn around and go to obey our Father’s commands.

Jesus told the Pharisees that harlots would enter the kingdom before them. Why? In this case, Jesus was speaking to very proud people. They believed that they were always right and worthy of Heaven, but despite their boasting, they often failed to obey God’s will. Jesus was telling them that it is better to be a humble sinner who repents than to be a Bible scholar who is too proud to obey.

We have all done wrong. The question that matter is this: Can you be a humble person and repent of your sins? Only through such humble obedience can we be saved through God’s grace. “... God resists the proud, but gives grace unto the humble.” (James 4:6)

Leave Sin Behind

“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?” (1 Corinthians 6:9)

The Bible teaches that we must leave sin behind if we wish to enjoy citizenship in God’s Kingdom. Sin has no place in the presence of our Holy God who commands, “Be ye holy; for I am holy.” (1 Peter 1:16)

However, no matter how terrible your sins might be, you need to know that you can be free from the burden of sin. After Paul told the church at Corinth that the unrighteous could not inherit God’ kingdom, he also said, “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” (1 Corinthians 6:11) The church at Corinth included prostitutes, drunks, and homosexuals who had repented of their sins and been forgiven of the sins they had left behind. Paul himself had persecuted and killed Christians before he repented and obeyed God.

Whatever sins you have committed, you can be forgiven by God if you will leave those sins behind through repentance and obey the Gospel of Christ. God loves repentance, and He longs for you to repent in order that He may forgive you.

Why wait? Leave your sins behind and begin a new life in Christ! (Romans 6:4)

God Loves Repentance

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God Loves Repentance

“Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repents.”

Luke 15:10

Jesus loves all men and women. He loved them enough to die for them. He loved them enough to live for them. Nothing makes Jesus happier than to see one of these people he loves turn from their sin.

The Sheep That Was Lost (Luke 15:3-7)

Jesus compares His love of repentance to a man with 100 sheep. He asked, “What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, does not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?” Jesus loves all people, and He is not satisfied when 99 out of 100 are saved. The Lord is “... not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.” (2 Peter 3:9).

Jesus described the man with one lost sheep saying, “And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying unto them, Rejoice with me; for I have found my sheep which was lost.” Anyone that has ever lost something valuable knows the joy in finding the one lost sheep, but do we realize that this is the same joy that Jesus feels when we repent? Our repentance allows Jesus to find us and take us home. “I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents, more than over ninety and nine just people, who need no repentance.”

The Piece of Silver (Luke 15:8-10)

I think that everyone has misplaced some money at some point in life. If you have, then this story will make perfect sense to you. “What woman having ten pieces of silver, if she lose one piece, does not light a candle, and sweep the house, and seek diligently until she find it? And when she has found it, she calls her friends and her neighbors together, saying, Rejoice with me; for I have found the piece which I had lost.”

I imagine that very few people would lose money and not look for it, no matter how rich they may be. This woman lit a candle and searched her whole house. The Bible teaches that the Word of God is a lamp. “Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.” (Psalms 119:105) Jesus is searching the whole world for lost souls today with his candle, the Gospel. In the Bible, He teaches us how to come to Him and be found. Jesus said in clear terms, “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3) The Bible teaches us the goodness of God and “... that the goodness of God leads you to repentance” (Romans 2:4). The Bible is the only safe guide for lost souls trying to be found by their Lord.

Once again, in this story Jesus emphasized how happy He is when a person guilty of sin repents. “Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sin-

ner that repents.” When Jesus says that there is joy in the presence of the angels of God, who is He talking about? It is God Himself that is in the company of angels. “The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place.” (Psalms 68:17) It is God that Jesus describes as rejoicing at the repentance of one soul.

People all over the world try to please God in their own way. Have you stopped to consider that God has already told us what makes Him happy? Do you realize that simple repentance is what God truly desires?

Long ago in the Kingdom of Israel, King Saul was told by God to fulfill a very specific list of commands that included destroying the cattle that belonged to a certain nation. Instead, he decided that it would please God more if he kept the cattle and offered them as sacrifices, but God was not pleased. The prophet Samuel explained the Lord’s anger to Saul saying, “Has the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” (1 Samuel 15:22)

We must all realize that God has not asked us to search for a way to please Him. He has told us what makes Him happy. God wants us to go to His Word and obey it. He wants us to leave sin behind and repent, because God loves repentance.
