

REPENT - Part Two

Part ? of LUKE, Luke 5:27-39.

Peter Foxwell. The Cornerstone Church. August 1, 2021.

INTRODUCTION

There are only two kinds of people in the world: those who repent and those who don't.

LUKE 5:27-39

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him. 29 Then Levi held a great banquet for Jesus at his house, and a large crowd of tax collectors and others were eating with them. 30 But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law who belonged to their sect complained to his disciples, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?" 31 Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

33 They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking." 34 Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them? 35 But the time will come when the bridegroom will be taken from them; in those days they will fast."

36 He told them this parable: "No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. 37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, 'The old is better.'"

RECAP

In this passage, we read about a conflict between Jesus on one side and the Pharisees and teachers of the Law on the other side. The conflict was about inclusion; specifically, who is included in the community of the Kingdom of God?

The Pharisees believed that only good, religious, people like them are included. But Jesus disagreed. By feasting with Levi the tax collector who, according to the Pharisees, was very bad, Jesus communicated that inclusion in the kingdom community is by repentance and faith, not by religion.

The Pharisees in Luke 5 felt so superior to the tax collectors and so satisfied with their external religious activity that they felt no need to repent. As a result, they put themselves outside of God's healing, saving, forgiving, grace.

Jesus believed that repentance is for everyone - those who are very good and those who are very bad - because we all need to forsake our sins and we all need cleansing and forgiveness. That's why, when he began his preaching ministry, his first word was *repent*. (Matthew 4:17) "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near."

Today, I want us to continue our exploration of repentance by answering the question, what is repentance?

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

REPENTANCE IS ALL ABOUT JESUS

(Luke 5:27-28) After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector by the name of Levi sitting at his tax booth. "Follow me," Jesus said to him, 28 and Levi got up, left everything and followed him.

Levi's experience shows us four facets of repentance that we can adopt:

- Jesus calls us to follow him - "follow me"
- We say yes to Jesus - "Levi got up"
- We leave our past behind - "left everything"
- We follow Jesus - "followed him"

It's not enough to turn to God in a vague sort of way. No, we turn from our sin and leave everything to do with it, just as Levi did; both the roots and the fruits of sin; the heart-attitudes, thinking patterns, and lifestyle. Then, we follow Jesus. We embrace him - his saving work by which we are cleansed and forgiven. Then, as a result, we embrace his teachings, his lifestyle, his love, and his will for our lives.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICES CANNOT REPLACE JESUS

The Pharisees pushed back against this emphasis on Jesus. They complain to Jesus about his lack of conformity to their religious rituals.

(Luke 5:33-34) They said to him, "John's disciples often fast and pray, and so do the disciples of the Pharisees, but yours go on eating and drinking." 34 Jesus answered, "Can you make the friends of the bridegroom fast while he is with them?"

Here, Jesus declares that he is the bridegroom promised in Old Testament prophecies. For example, in Isaiah 62, God promises restoration for Jerusalem:

(Isaiah 62:4-5) No longer will they call you Deserted, or name your land Desolate. But you will be called Hephzibah (my delight is in you), and your land Beulah

(married); for the LORD will take delight in you, and your land will be married. 5 As a young man marries a young woman, so will your Builder marry you; as a bridegroom rejoices over his bride, so will your God rejoice over you.

Jesus is the promised bridegroom rejoicing over his bride. He is God with us, restoring us to himself and delighting in his people.

Jesus told the crowd that there's no point in feasting or fasting unless they embrace him as the promised bridegroom. He's the one who fulfills the fasting and makes sense of the feasting. Why fast if you feel not need to repent? Why feast if you aren't forgiven?

SELF-IMPROVEMENT CANNOT REPLACE JESUS

The Pharisees liked their old ways and felt no need to change, which is why Jesus told the parables about the new coat, the new wineskins, and the new wine in Luke 5:36-39. (Luke 5:36-39). Their key word is *new*:

He told them this parable: “No one tears a piece out of a new garment to patch an old one. Otherwise, they will have torn the new garment, and the patch from the new will not match the old. 37 And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the new wine will burst the skins; the wine will run out and the wineskins will be ruined. 38 No, new wine must be poured into new wineskins. 39 And no one after drinking old wine wants the new, for they say, ‘The old is better.’”

The new represents Jesus Christ. The Pharisees prefer their program of self improvement without repentance and without commitment to Jesus. They preferred their old ways of cleaning up the externals but leaving the roots of sin in their hearts untouched (roots, such as unbelief, ego, pride, greed, idolatry, disordered desires, etc.). They were out of step with the new thing God who doing through Jesus Christ.

Today, many want self-improvement and freedom from guilt and shame without repentance and without a Savior. They don't want to admit they are sinners and they don't want to surrender to Jesus and his teachings. This is why the self-improvement author and speaker, Tony Robbins, has a reported net worth of \$600 million and his companies have a reported annual income of one billion dollars

(www.celebritynetworth.com/richest-businessmen/tony-robbins-net-worth/).

CONCLUSION: EMBRACE REPENTANCE, EMBRACE JESUS

The message of Jesus is clear and unavoidable. We should all embrace the gift of repentance, turning from our sins and turning to Jesus for cleansing and forgiveness.

I need to point out something very important: Repentance is impossible apart from the grace of God. God grants repentance (2 Timothy 2:25) and until that happens we'll likely go on denying our need or trying to do better without Jesus. The OT prophet, Ezekiel, delivered a straight-talk message to Israel all about this:

(Ezekiel 36:31-32) Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. 32 I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake (but for the sake of my Holy Name, verse 22), declares the Sovereign LORD. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, people of Israel!

The passage teaches us the process of repentance. First, God shows us that we have done evil and wickedness. He shows us the awful sinfulness of our sin in his sight. Then, he allows us to feel loathing, shame, and disgrace at our sinfulness.

(Psalms 32:3) When I kept silent (about my sins), my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. ...

Chapter 15 of the 1647 Westminster Confession of Faith echoes the psalm. God gives us "the sight and sense of ... the filthiness and odiousness of his sins, as contrary to the holy nature, and righteous law of God". And that's what propels us to turn away from our sinful lifestyles and to the Savior.

<https://www.pcaac.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/WCFScriptureProofs.pdf>

Repentance is the path to freedom from guilt, shame, regrets, and condemnation. Turning from our sins allows to embrace Jesus Christ our Savior. He is our cleansing, forgiveness, and righteousness before God.

John Bunyan's epic allegory, *The Pilgrim's Progress* describes the sweetness of being set free from our sins.

Now I saw in my dream, that the highway up which Christian was to go, was fenced on either side with a wall, and that wall was called Salvation.⁶⁵ Up this way,

therefore, did burdened Christian run, but not without great difficulty, because of the load on his back.

He ran thus till he came to a place somewhat ascending, and upon that place stood a cross, and a little below, in the bottom, a sepulcher. So I saw in my dream, that just as Christian came up with the cross, his burden loosed from off his shoulders, and fell from off his back, and began to tumble, and so continued to do, till it came to the mouth of the sepulcher, where it fell in, and I saw it no more.

Then was Christian glad and lightsome, and said, with a merry heart, "He hath given me rest by His sorrow, and life by His death." Then he stood still awhile to look and wonder; for it was very surprising to him, that the sight of the cross should thus ease him of his burden.

Available as a free download at: <https://www.desiringgod.org/books/the-pilgrims-progress>

Embrace repentance, not just once at the outset of following Jesus. No, repentance is God's gift for our whole life. In fact, the more like Jesus you become, the more you will feel the need for daily, hourly, minute-by-minute repentance. The Protestant Reformer, Martin Luther, wrote, "Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." (www.luther.de/en/95thesen.html)

When we hold on to aspects of our former lives, we are not done repenting. When we fall back into our old ways, job one is to renew our repentance. Repentance is never once and done; it should be an hourly habit. That's not a burden; that's pure grace. We have a Savior who receives us, forgives us, and restores us every hour of every day.

In his book *Repentance: The First Word of the Gospel*, Richard Owen Roberts writes:

The story is told of a wealthy man who was interviewing prospects for the position of chauffeur. Each of the candidates was asked the same question: "How close to the edge of a cliff can you drive and still keep me safe?" The first was certain he could drive within 6 inches of the cliff and be absolutely safe. The second assured the prospective employer that he could drive with the outer tires right on the cliff edge and all would be well. The third insisted he would stay as far from the cliff as possible, hugging the opposite wall. Who got the job?

Truly repentant persons stay as far away from sin as possible. But it is more than the danger of sin that shakes them it's the realization of sin's offensiveness to God that causes them to avoid it like the plague, and when they fall into it, to weep over their sin with the brokenness and contrition of true repentance.

God's grace makes repentance possible. If you're really struggling with turning from sin and turning to follow Jesus, whether you've been a believer for decades or you're not yet a believer, my advice is to ask God for his grace. The words of Psalm 80 are a good guide:

(Psalms 80:7) Restore us (Hebrew: *shuv*, turn, return), God Almighty; make your face shine on us, that we may be saved.

If you'd like to review my teaching notes online, go to:

<https://www.famousgod.com/teaching-notes>

WORSHIP CELEBRATION

Sunday, August 1, 2021

1:30 Welcome & Prayer -joey

0:00 invocation

3:23 *Chain Breaker -joey*

0:00 *From The Day -Ashley*

0:45 Pray & Dismiss Kids -joey

3:00 Bible Reading Rom 13:1-7 Janie

4:07 *God So Loved -Ashley*

3:00 A.C.T.S. Prayer- Peter

25:00 Teaching - Repent, Part 2 - Peter

4:52 *King Of My Heart -Ashley*

1:30 Updates - Peter & Joey

0:30 Blessing - Joey