

Joshua 3:5 (NLT) - Then Joshua told the people, "Purify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do great wonders among you."

Some notes on repentance:

- Sin always carries consequences

Proverbs 6:27 (NLT) - Can a man scoop a flame into his lap and not have his clothes catch on fire?

- Repentance is both a point and a process

Hebrews 10:14 (NLT) - For by that one offering he forever made perfect those who are being made holy.

- God's best work is done through clean vessels

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- A Christian's focus regarding sin should be more about 'belief' than 'behaviour'

Matthew 23:25-26 (NLT) - "What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence! ²⁶You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too."

- Repentance is ultimately about 'heart' condition

Psalms 51:17 (NLT) - The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

Study Guide

1. Think back to your childhood. How did you typically respond to the consequences of poor behaviour?
2. What first comes to mind when you hear the word 'repentance'?
3. Why do you think it was necessary for God to tell the children of Israel to purify themselves? Could God still have performed "great wonders" among them if they chose to disobey His instructions?
4. How do you see repentance worked out in your own life? Would you describe it as a regular component of your spiritual walk? Read 1 John 1:5 and 1 John 2:1-2 to assist you in clarifying a healthy approach to repentance.
5. Take some time to pray and seek the Lord with an open heart. Pray along with the psalmist in Psalm 139:23-24.