

Flint Hills Bible Church
Biblical Soul Care Sunday School
Biblical Repentance Part 2

I. Introduction

Last week we talked about definitions of repentance. This week we will do more surveying of Scripture to see the prevalence of God's call to unbelievers to repent - to change their mind about sin.

Here is a definition for review:

"Repentance is a heartfelt sorrow for sin, a renouncing of it, and a sincere commitment to forsake it and walk in obedience to Christ. (Systematic Theology, Grudem pg 713)

You are meeting with Trent. He has been struggling with sinful anger for years. He often erupts into yelling, breaking things, and storming around. This morning he says he has finally repented of his sinful anger. Based on our lesson last week (and the definition above), what would you look for to see if Trent's repentance is genuine?

Objectives:

We will observe biblical portraits of repentance and learn what Scripture describes as true repentance

II. God's Prescription of Repentance

Imperatives: As we read the following passages, note the commanders given to the audience:

Jeremiah 25:4–6 (ESV) — 4 You have neither listened nor inclined your ears to hear, although the LORD persistently sent to you all his servants the prophets, **5** saying, 'Turn now, every one of you, from his evil way and evil deeds, and dwell upon the land that the LORD has given to you and your fathers from of old and forever. **6** Do not go after other gods to serve and worship them, or provoke me to anger with the work of your hands. Then I will do you no harm.'

Describe the command given through Jeremiah:

v. 5:

v. 6:

Ezekiel 18:30–32 (ESV) — 30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. **31** Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make

yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? **32** For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Describe the Commands given through Ezekiel:

v. 30

v. 31

v. 32

Luke 13:1–5 (ESV) — 1 There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. **2** And he answered them, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? **3** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. **4** Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? **5** No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.”

How does Jesus describe the need for repentance to His followers?

Luke 24:45–48 (ESV) — 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, **46** and said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, **47** and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. **48** You are witnesses of these things.

Jesus teaches His disciples the importance of repentance. Why is it necessary?

2 Timothy 2:19 (ESV) — 19 But God’s firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: “The Lord knows those who are his,” and, “Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity.”

What command is Paul giving to Christians?

Romans 6:10–13 (ESV) — 10 For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. **11** So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus. **12** Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. **13** Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and your members to God as instruments for righteousness.

How does Paul expect believers in Christ to think about their former life of sin?

Summary: We see throughout the Scriptures that repentance, this change of mind about our past sinful living, is a non-negotiable. We cannot love God and hold onto our sin at the same time. Let's now look at biblical characters and learn from examples of true repentance and false repentance

The promise of Repentance

2 Chronicles 7:13–14 (ESV) — 13 When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, **14** if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.

Isaiah 55:6–7 (ESV) — 6 “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; **7** let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

According to these passages, what does God do for those who repent?

Joel 2:12–13 (ESV) — 12 “Yet even now,” declares the LORD, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; **13** and rend your hearts and not your garments.” Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster.

What does repentance look like according to this passage?

Why should we repent according to Joel?

Romans 2:4 (ESV) — 4 Or do you presume on the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance?

2 Peter 3:9 (ESV) — 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

After reading about the kindness and patience of God, what should it motivate us to do?

What effect are Peter and Paul warning us about in these texts?

Summary: God is gracious and merciful. He is abounding in steadfast love and forgiveness. What a God we have! Next we will look at biblical examples of repentance.

*more references: Isaiah 44:22, Ezekiel 18:23, Deut. 30:1-10, Acts 3:19, 5:31, 11:18

III. Biblical Pictures: True Repentance

David:

2 Samuel 12:13 (ESV) — 13 David said to Nathan, “I have sinned against the LORD.” And Nathan said to David, “The LORD also has put away your sin; you shall not die.

Psalms 32:1–5 (ESV) — 1 Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. **2** Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit. **3** For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. **4** For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. Selah **5** I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,” and you forgave the iniquity of my sin. Selah

*see also: Psalm 51: (1-17)

Describe David’s change in reference to his sin:

Nineveh

Jonah 3:4–10 (ESV) — 4 Jonah began to go into the city, going a day’s journey. And he called out, “Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” **5** And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them. **6** The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. **7** And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, “By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, **8** but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. **9** Who knows? God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish.” **10** When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Describe the steps the people of Nineveh took after hearing the warning of Jonah:

Though question: We know Jonah’s response when God relented of the disaster. Are there ways that you and I can respond similarly when unbelievers show signs of repentance?

What are some other OT examples of repentance?

More examples:

Ezra and Nehemiah: Ezra 9-10, Nehemiah 8:5 - 9:38

Daniel: Daniel 9:1-19,

Prodigal Son
Luke 15:11–24 (ESV)

How did the son view his father before he was in need?

What does his planned speech to his father reveal about his thinking in vv. 17-19, 21?

Thought question: How does the son view the father after their reunion?

Zacchaeus
Luke 19:1–10 (ESV)

What did Zacchaeus do after being with Jesus?

2 Corinthians 7:9–11 (ESV) — 9 As it is, I rejoice, not because you were grieved, but because you were grieved into repenting. For you felt a godly grief, so that you suffered no loss through us. **10** For godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret, whereas worldly grief produces death. **11** For see what earnestness this godly grief has produced in you, but also what eagerness to clear yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what longing, what zeal, what punishment! At every point you have proved yourselves innocent in the matter.

What did their godly sorrow lead to in the Corinthians in verse 10?

How was this godly sorrow demonstrated in verse 11?

Have you seen examples of worldly grief that you thought was godly grief and vice versa? How can we tell the difference?

What would Trent from our introduction do if he has worldly grief? What would he do if he has godly grief?

After seeing these examples of repentance that leads to life. Let's now turn our attention to examples of worldly grief that fall short of repentance.

IV. Pictures of False Repentance:

Saul

1 Samuel 15:24–31 (ESV)

Describe Saul's response to his confrontation by Samuel:

- What does he say? What does he do?

- What does this reveal about his heart?

King Ahab:

1 Kings 21:25 - 29

How is he looking so far?

1 Kings 22:8, 26-27

What is lacking in King Ahab's life if his repentance is genuine?

Contrast King Ahab to King Josiah in 2 Kings 22:11-20, 23

The Rich Young Ruler

Mark 10:17–27 (ESV) — 17 And as he was setting out on his journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, “Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?” **18** And Jesus said to him, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except God alone. **19** You know the commandments: ‘Do not murder, Do not commit adultery, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Do not defraud, Honor your father and mother.’ ” **20** And he said to him, “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” **21** And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, “You lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.” **22** Disheartened by the saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions.

What are the dueling desires in the young man's heart?

Why does Jesus tell him to forsake his possessions? What are the implications we should take away from this interaction?

The Pharisee and Tax Collector:

Luke 18:9–14 (ESV)

Contrast the two characters in this parable. How is the pharisee's response to God different from the tax collector's response?

What is Jesus' assessment of the two men?

Judas and Peter: a comparison

Matthew 27:3–5 (ESV) — 3 Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, **4** saying, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” They said, “What is that to us? See to it

yourself.” **5** And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.

Matthew 26:74–75 (ESV) — 74 Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, “I do not know the man.” And immediately the rooster crowed. **75** And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, “Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

What are the similarities between the two men?

What are the differences?

Summary: Now we have seen several examples of repentance in the Scriptures. Our next lesson will consider application of these truths to our soul care. What gets in the way of genuine repentance in the life of our counselees? What can we do to help our brothers and sisters in Christ to walk in genuine repentance? These questions we will consider next week.