

KSCF – REPENTANCE

By: Joyce Meka

GCI – Central

15th August, 2021

WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

“Repentance involves a heartfelt conviction of sin, a contrition over the offense to God, a turning away from the sinful way of life, and a turning towards a God-honoring way of life.” Sam Storms.

“A genuine repentance is not simply a “rethinking” of one’s relationship to sin and God. Repentance must be first rooted in the realization of how sinful an action, emotion, belief, or way of life is. Then, one must be grieved by how offensive and grieving sin is to God, not simply afraid of God’s retribution for your sin. (rooted on a high value on God , not a high value of self). Only then can turning away from sin towards holiness truly be called repentance.” Sam Storms.

Sin

- It is any lack of conformity to the moral character of God or the law of God.
- “Sin will take you further than you want to go, it will keep you longer than you want to stay, it will cost you more than you are willing to pay and finally it begets other sins.”
- A good example is the sin of David in 2 Sam. 11 (He looked at the woman, enquired about her, sent messengers to bring her, laid with her, killed her husband), her husband Uriah was David’s bodyguard.

The Plague of Sin

- Separation from God.
- Makes us lose the joy of our salvation.
- Causes fear and loss of confidence in approaching God.
- Leads to death.

Repentance

- In Greek *metanoo* it means a change of mind (Paul thought Jesus was a false prophet but when he met Him he changed his mind and knew that He was a savior) while in Hebrew *teshuvah* it means a turn around/to return.
- We cannot talk about repentance without talking about sin.
- Repentance was the first message of John the Baptist, the Apostle Peter told the gathering, “repent and turn away so that the days of refreshing come.”

What Repentance Is Not

- It is not an emotion.
- Not feeling sorry.
- It is not an awareness of sin.
- It is not regretting our mistakes.
- Pharaoh's repentance was not good enough, it was short lived, Judas' regretted his sin but never repented.

What Repentance Is

- A change of mind, Acts 9 (story of Saul of Tarsus).
- It is a decision to live and follow Jesus. Luke 13:3, 1 Peter 1:3.
- It is foundational in salvation. Luke 15:17 (the prodigal son).

Psalm 51

Background: 2 Sam 11 The story of David and Bathsheba. When kings were going to war, David remained in Jerusalem and late in the evening he saw a woman bathing and admired her, sent out for her and slept with her. Sin gave birth to sin and more sin, David laid a trap for Uriah to be killed and he was, on top of that, he took to himself a second wife. In chapter 12 God sent a message to David through prophet Nathan to rebuke him of his sin. This led to the writing of the Psalm 51.

We will learn true repentance from this Psalm.

1. Run To God

- Don't run away to hide your mess, run to God.
- David had tested the mercy and love of God and he never doubted it even though he was in sin, Vs. 1. Forgiveness is based on God's grace and love.
- Instead of running away from God, from church, from brethren, run to the merciful God.
- Cry out for His mercy.

2. Acknowledge Your Sin, 2-3

- Many blame others for their sin; David could have said, that the woman presented herself naked, why did the hubby leave her? Etc.
- He rather cried to God to be washed, it was his sin, he didn't dwell on how it came about.
- Don't figure out how you can cover up and save up your name.
- It is not about who caused you to sin, judgment will not consider the cause, it will just be read out for you.
- David said that he knew his transgression, do you know your sin?

3. Who Have You Sinned Against? 4

- David knew that his sin was against God.
- He sinned against himself, his nation, Uriah, his wife, family but David said that he had sinned against the Lord.
- If you look at sin as against people, your life will be spent in hiding, and doing some more.
- When you know it is against God, you will know that wherever you are, His presence is, and hence hate sinning against Him.
- If you are born again, your sin is against your savior not your hubby, wife, children, church, etc.
- David knew that the desire of God is truth even though we are aware of our sinful nature.

4. Know That Only God Can Forgive Your Sin.

- Hyssop was a plant in Israel that the priests used to dip in the blood and sprinkle it on the doorpost).
- This is now not for us, only the blood of Jesus is used to cleanse us.
- The blood would not take away sin completely but the blood of Jesus does.
- It cleanses completely.

5. Joy Comes From Forgiveness. Vs. 8

- David knew that forgiveness brings joy and gladness.
- It feels very good just the same way one feels when they wash dirt away from their bodies.
- It is very unlikely for a normal person to appear before people smelling sweat, but when you shower and oil your body, you gain confidence and joy.
- There is no joy anywhere else apart from the confidence that we have been forgiven.
- David desired that God hides His face from his sin.
- It smells nice to be forgiven.

6. Desire a Re-Creation. Vs. 10

- Create in Hebrew *bara* from nothing, a totally new thing.
- *Bara* a new heart, he wanted newness of heart, only God can *bara*.
- Notice that in the place of spirit, David needed a renewal *hadess* not a creation.
- Repentance is deep, creation is required, newness is required.
- Repentance means realizing that you can't do it yourself, you only throw yourself right into the arms of God, helpless, and desire his mercy and creation.

7. Repentance is Desiring His Presence. Vs. 11

- If you are still hiding, you have not repented.
- If the presence of God is not present where you are, even in the dark, there is no true repentance.
- If the presence of God is not present, you are just sorry but not transformed.
- Desire the Holy Spirit, He convicts us of sin everywhere we are.
- Is He present where you are?
- Is He speaking to you and are you listening? If He is, this is evident that you have repented.

8. Repentance Brings Restoration. 12

- The joy you had lost can be restored when you truly repent.
- Joy of salvation restores one to his/her rightful position as a son in the kingdom.
- As you get restored in salvation, everything else is restored.

9. Desire to Be Sustained By The Holy Spirit. 12

- David never trusted his effort in being sustained.
- There is no one who is too saved to fall, David a man after God's own heart struggled, Peter struggled and denied Jesus, many have, so don't trust yourself too much. 1 Cor. 10:12 "therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall."
- We are human in a physical body, only the Holy Spirit is powerful enough to sustain us.

10. Then and Only Then Can You Teach Others. 13

- True repentance, restoration and sustenance leads to ability to teach others.
- Greatness is not in knowledge of God's Word but in true repentance, sustenance by the Holy Spirit, only then can we be firm enough to teach.
- Teaching from the point of restoration not knowledge.
- Teaching is based on God's deliverance from the power of sin.

11. True Repentance Frees Us to Sacrifice. 16-19

- Israel was used to giving sacrifices and offerings but this is not what God requires.
- David was a rich man and could give anything to be forgiven, a bull, a pigeon, silver, or even gold but this could not please the lord.
- God is pleased with clean hearts and uprightness as His sons and not in things for He owns everything.
- Our offerings and sacrifices may puff us up and make us feel like God can't do without them.
- He is not pleased with sacrifices, He owns cattle on a thousand hills.
- He is delighted with contrite hearts.
- True repentance humbles us to know we can't do anything without God's help.
- True repentance helps us to always have hearts that can be melted by the love of God and His mercy.

Conclusion

- God desires true repentance and not sacrifices.
- God doesn't primarily want sacrifices when someone sins, He accepts and deeply desires a broken spirit and a contrite heart.
- He desires a personal relationship with us and not one based on what we think we have.
- David closed the Psalm by praying that God rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, there is a switch from personal prayer to national prayer.
- We can learn that before we pray for the sin of others, we have to deal with our personal sin.

Application.

What is sin? Have sinned? To whom have you committed sin?
What action have you taken?