

UNLESS YOU REPENT

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Luke 13:1-5, Acts 26:12-20

1. Last week we saw that the multitude Jesus was addressing lacked discernment or understanding in some important areas.
 - a. They were unable to discern what God was doing in their midst.
 - b. They were unable to discern the weakness of their position before God.
 - c. They were unable to discern the true nature of sin and their need to repent.
 - d. They were unable to discern that with privilege comes responsibility.
2. This morning I want to revisit part of the passage we looked at last week, and take an extended look at Jesus' stern warning when He warned, "Unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."
3. Mark records that Jesus come preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel." Mark 1:15
4. In the midst of His ministry Jesus stated, "I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance. Luke 5:32
5. Just prior to His ascension Jesus declared, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day, 47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 "You are witnesses of these things." Luke 24:46-48
 - a. In Matthew 28:19 Jesus commanded, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations."
 - b. Luke 24:46-47 clearly states that making disciples includes proclaiming the necessity of repentance.
6. The Apostle Paul told the Athenians, "Therefore having overlooked the times of ignorance, God is now declaring to men that all people everywhere should repent, 31 because He has fixed a day in which He will judge the world in righteousness through a Man whom He has appointed, having furnished proof to all men by raising Him from the dead." Acts 17:30-31
7. Repentance for forgiveness of sins was faithfully proclaimed by the Apostolic Church.
 - a. Acts 2:37-38
Now when they heard this, they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" 38 Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."
 - b. Acts 3:17-19
"And now, brethren, I know that you acted in ignorance, just as your rulers did also. 18 "But the things which God announced beforehand by the mouth of all the prophets, that His Christ would suffer, He has thus fulfilled. 19 "Therefore repent and return, so that

your sins may be wiped away, in order that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord.”

c. Acts 20:17-21

From Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. 18 And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, 19 serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; 20 how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, 21 solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

NOTE: Repentance towards God, and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, are the two components of genuine conversion leading to salvation.

8. As we discuss repentance, and the need to repent, we need to recognize that genuine repentance is a manifestation of God’s grace.

a. Acts 5:29-32

But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. 30 "The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom you had put to death by hanging Him on a cross. 31 "He is the one whom God exalted to His right hand as a Prince and a Savior, to grant repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. 32 "And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him." (Note again Luke 24:48)

b. 2 Timothy 2:24-26

The Lord's bond-servant must not be quarrelsome, but be kind to all, able to teach, patient when wronged, 25 with gentleness correcting those who are in opposition, if perhaps God may grant them repentance leading to the knowledge of the truth, 26 and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will.

9. The lost are dependent on God’s grace because of man’s two-fold problem.

a. Rebellion.

(1) Isaiah 53:6

All of us like sheep have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; but the Lord has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on Him.

(2) Romans 8:6-8

For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, 7 because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so, 8 and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

b. Spiritual blindness.

(1) 1 Corinthians 2:14-15

But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

(2) 2 Corinthians 4:3-5

And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, 4 in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving so that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

10. When Paul was defending himself before King Agrippa, he clearly revealed what repentance leads to. Acts 26:12-20

I. Genuine repentance impacts both our minds and wills. 17-18

A. The word repentance means a change of mind; to think differently.

B. Repentance is accompanied by a new mind, or mindset, and a full surrender to the will of God. Isaiah 55:6-9

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 ; and let him return to the Lord,** and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 8 "For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord. 9 "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

NOTE: Repentance involves both forsaking our way and our thoughts.

C. We see this aspect of repentance clearly revealed in what he told King Agrippa Jesus had to say to him on the road to Damascus.

1. Jesus told Paul, "I am sending you to open their eyes (the eyes of their minds)..."

2. "...so that they may turn (repent) from darkness (minds) to light and from the dominion of Satan to (the dominion) of God. (wills)."

II. Genuine repentance positions us spiritually to receive from God the blessings that come by faith in Jesus Christ. 18

A. That:

1. "...they may receive forgiveness of sins."

2. "...they may receive an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me."

B. Without repentance there is no forgiveness of sins and no inheritance.

C. God's command to repent is a manifestation of His love for us and His desire to have a personal relationship with us.

III. Genuine repentance leads to, and results in, a new lifestyle. 19-20

A. In obedience to the heavenly vision Paul kept declaring to both Jews and Gentiles that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance.

B. Those who have genuinely repented towards God, and embraced Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, will live a transformed life.

APPLICATION

A person who is rightly related to Jesus Christ will live a life that confirms that they are.