

February 11, 2018
Sermon Notes
2 Samuel 12:1-24

Mark 1:15 ESV

15 and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel."

1. What is repentance?

a. Acknowledgement of wrong

Psalms 51:3-4 ESV

3 For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. 4 Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment.

1 Samuel 15:19-20 ESV

19 Why then did you not obey the voice of the Lord? Why did you pounce on the spoil and do what was evil in the sight of the Lord?" 20 And Saul said to Samuel, "I have obeyed the voice of the Lord. I have gone on the mission on which the Lord sent me. I have brought Agag the king of Amalek, and I have devoted the Amalekites to destruction.

1. What is repentance?

b. Sorrow over wrong, not sorrow over getting caught

2 Corinthians 7:9-10 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.

"It is important to realize that mere sorrow for one's actions, or even deep remorse over one's actions, does not constitute genuine repentance unless it is accompanied by a sincere decision to forsake sin that is being committed against God."

Wayne Grudem

1. What is repentance?

c. Turning away from sin (not just a change of mind, a change of direction)

Psalms 51:16-17 NLT

16 You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering. 17 The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God.

2. Why is repentance important?

For forgiveness, salvation and reconciliation

"God's forgiveness is conditional. To be sure, God offers grace to all people, but he forgives only those who repent and believe."

Chris Brauns, Unpacking Forgiveness

Acts 20:21 ESV

21 testifying both to Jews and to Greeks of repentance toward God and of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Matthew 3:8 NIV

8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Luke 23:34 ESV

34 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments.

Luke 23:39-43 ESV

39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." 42 And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." 43 And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."

3. What are the limitations of repentance?

It does not automatically remove all consequences of sin

Hebrews 12:10-11 NIV

10 They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. 11 No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

Don't confuse discipline with penalty:

True repentance results in the removal of penalty, but not necessarily the removal of all discipline

"Consequences are important for the sake of justice. A willingness to accept consequences for sinful behavior is actually good evidence that the offender truly is repentant."

Chris Brauns

Footnote: For those who through repentance and faith have received the forgiveness of God, we must also forgive others in the same way.

Ephesians 4:32 ESV

32 Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Romans 12:19-21 ESV

19 Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20 To the contrary, "if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head." 21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Response to wrong:

1. Resolve not to take revenge
2. Lovingly and proactively offer grace
3. Don't forgive the unrepentant, but leave room for the wrath of God

2 Timothy 4:14-15 ESV

14 Alexander the coppersmith did me great harm; the Lord will repay him according to his deeds. 15 Beware of him yourself, for he strongly opposed our message.

Luke 17:3-4 ESV

3 Pay attention to yourselves! If your brother sins, rebuke him, and if he repents, forgive him, 4 and if he sins against you seven times in the day, and turns to you seven times, saying, 'I repent,' you must forgive him."

If there is repentance, forgiveness is a commitment:

1. I will not dwell on the incident
2. I will not bring up this incident again and use it against you
3. I will not talk to others about this incident
4. I will not let this incident stand between us or hinder our personal relationship