

**Thy Kingdom Come (Day 8)**  
**Thursday 28th May 2020**

**'If My people who are called by My name shall humble themselves, seek my face and Turn from their wicked ways....'**

God told Solomon, 'if my people will turn from their wicked ways... ' which raises the question why didn't God tell the people to repent as Jesus does in the New testament. Is there a difference between turning from, and repentance from, wicked ways?

Within the Scriptures, repentance is often associated with salvation. The Greek word for repentance is metanoia which means 'a change of mind'. So is there a difference between turning from wicked ways and changing our mind?

At first it may look confusing but technically it's the same thing. Consider Zacchaeus in Chapter 19 of Luke's gospel. As you may remember Zacchaeus is described as a person short in stature, dishonest in his trade as a tax collector and very unpopular. When he encounters Jesus his life changes, he has a change of heart. He was sorry for what he had done recognising he is a sinner and his life was offending God. To show he was changing direction he offers compensation to everyone he has defrauded and will give away half of his wealth to the poor.

Zacchaeus not only recognised he was a sinner and in need of a saviour but also amended his ways and the fruit of his repentance was demonstrated in him becoming honest in his dealings and also very generous.

He changed his mind about the direction his life was going recognising he was offending God and so turned back to the ways of God.

When the Holy Spirit convicts a person of their sinful behaviour there is a wonderful hope, because if the Holy Spirit left us alone in conviction without a Saviour we would be completely bereft, with no rescue, only a terrible fate awaiting. The burden of sin and the conviction eventually will crush a person under its weight of guilt, shame and ultimate judgement.

Holy Spirit not only holds up a mirror to show us our sinful life, convicting our heart of the truth but He will also point us towards the Saviour. Coming under the conviction of the Spirit is a grace of God as the world does not recognise its sin until the Spirit reveals it to us either through conviction of heart or by the preacher of the gospel.

For Jesus is the only One who can set me free from my sin, its guilt and shame and then on to a renewed spirit and heart within which makes me a new creation as I am born again.

To hear the words, 'Your sins are forgiven' meaning the debt I owe has been paid in full, for this is what Jesus shouted on the cross, 'It is finished'. Such was the triumphant cry that Jesus conquered sins penalty and in doing Jesus exchanges his perfect righteousness for my sinfulness. This what the Scriptures are saying, 'For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life' Jesus is the 'Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world'. This is the great

gospel message of good news which we hear preached and has been preached to every generation for two millennia.

### **Turn or repent?**

The results of true repentance as with Zacchaeus should be seen when the person no longer rejoices in their sin but begins to abhor past misdeeds and seeks to amend their behaviour which ultimately results in the person being set free and a new creation has come. James says it this way,

‘...faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead’

**(James 2:17)**

### **Summary,**

Repentance is a change of mind. But the full biblical understanding of repentance goes beyond that. In relationship to salvation, repentance is a change of mind, from a love of sin to rejection and hatred of sin. Also change of mind about Jesus from rejecting Him to accepting Him in faith as Saviour. Such repentance is something only God can enable, (John 6:44; Acts 11:18; 2 Timothy 2:25). Therefore, true biblical repentance will always result in a change of behaviour, through change of mind and a change of heart, maybe not instantly, but gradually and progressively.

So Turning from wicked ways is not just turn around, its to think differently about it and demonstrate this change by faith in how we now live. We are not to simply keep sinning hoping God will keep forgiving, for that shows neither turning nor changing of mind about the sin.

### **Your 5 Names:**

Remembering only the Holy Spirit can lead your ‘5 names’ people to see who they truly are before Almighty God and the sin that offends Him. Ask God in your prayers that He would extend His mercy to these 5 people you are praying for, that they would be brought to a place/situation where they can no longer hide from their sin but come under the conviction of the Holy Spirit and so find grace in our Saviour Jesus through turning to him in true repentance. This is a brave prayer, can you pray this for your 5 because ultimately this leads to an eternity with God as His children and free from His wrath and judgment.