



The Evidence of Repentance

Genuine forgiveness is the result of real repentance.
But what's the evidence of real repentance? Today we find out.

beourguest

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teachingnotes

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VISUAL NOTES

Are YOU forgiven? Is it possible to KNOW so? Yep! Today we examine **The Evidence of Repentance**.

Luke 3:2a-6 (CSB)

...God's word came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. He went into all the vicinity of the Jordan, **proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins**, as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah: A voice of one crying out in the wilderness: **Prepare the way for the Lord**; make His paths straight! Every valley will be filled, and every mountain and hill will be made low; the crooked will become straight, the rough ways smooth, and **everyone will see the salvation of God**. [Is 40:3-5]

God's word came to John: This is a common OT phrase used for God giving a message to a prophet so he can speak God's words to the people. This is how John would prepare the way for the Messiah, preaching about **repentance & forgiveness** - warning of God's wrath (God is just) & offering God's peace (God is gracious).

The prophet Isaiah wrote about one coming to prepare PEOPLE for the Lord's coming.

- **"Every valley filled, every mountain/hill made low..."** is metaphoric language for the role John would play: to remove obstacles and prepare the people to receive the Messiah & His message. It would be **through the Lord that everyone will see the salvation of God**.

Baptism did **NOT YET** represent the death, burial, & resurrection of Jesus (still future). Baptism was for Gentiles (not Jews) who were converting to become covenant Jews. * Jews did participate in ceremonial washings (dipped themselves under the water before entering the temple grounds).

Mark 1:5 (CSB)

The whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the Jordan River, **confessing their sins**.

Jews from all over Israel came to be **baptized by John, confessing their sins**, acknowledging that they were no better than Gentiles. They too needed forgiveness and this baptism represented that washing away of sin. People walked away from all the ordinary daily concerns, and walked to **the Jordan River** to fix their minds and hearts on their spiritual condition, while listening to John's message of forgiveness.

- ② Have YOU taken the time to get away from the daily distractions and consider your spiritual condition? Baptism doesn't force God to forgive. Washing on the outside means nothing without washing on the inside.

There is NO FORGIVENESS without REPENTANCE.

WRITE YOUR OWN NOTES HERE

600 Years Before John's Baptism

Jeremiah 2:22 (NET 2nd ed.) You can try to wash away your guilt with a strong detergent. You can use as much soap as you want. But the stain of your guilt is still there for me to see," says the Sovereign LORD.

John's Similar Warning

Luke 3:7-8a (CSB) He then said to the crowds who came out to be baptized by him, "Brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore **produce fruit consistent with repentance.**

God's forgiveness doesn't lead us back to the sin He has forgiven. *Proverbs* pictures a person going back to sin like a dog returning to lick up his own vomit (Prov 26:11). Baptism - washing the outside - wasn't enough. It only symbolized washing on the inside.

Genuine forgiveness is the result of real repentance.

- Repentance = 'change of mind' leading to a change of action. We agree with God about what is good and what is evil, and this change of mind results in a change of action.

How do you know if you have really repented?

The Evidence of Repentance is Obedience

People who have repented are going to **produce fruit consistent with repentance.**

❓ **Is the sin in your PAST...or PRESENT?** Do you keep going BACK to it (like a dog to vomit) OR do you obey out of your gratitude for forgiveness & trust in God's commands?

No Family Discount

Luke 3:8b-9 (CSB) And don't start saying to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father,' for I tell you that God is able to raise up children for Abraham from these stones. The ax is already at the root of the trees. Therefore, every tree that doesn't produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

This is the same kind of language Jesus uses to speak about hell to His Jewish audience.

- Jews didn't *DESERVE* God's forgiveness.
- Jews didn't get a free pass because of their family tree...AND NEITHER DO YOU!

You will not slip God's justice. You should be *MUCH MORE CONCERNED* about what God thinks than anyone else.

Fear None But God

Luke 12:4-5 (CSB) I say to you, my friends, don't fear those who kill the body, and after that can do nothing more. But I will show you the One to fear: **Fear Him who has authority to throw people into hell after death.** Yes, I say to you, this is the One to fear!

We must **fear Him who has authority to throw people into hell after death** - GOD. When we respect the JUDGE and His authority, we should do what He says. And if He offers us FULL FORGIVENESS we should respond to whatever He says! Those who were listening to John were awaiting the One he was preparing the way for - the One who would bring salvation from God's judgement.

Real Repentance Looks Like...

Luke 3:10-14 (CSB) "What then should we do?" **the crowds** were asking him. He replied to them, "The one who has two shirts must share with someone who has none, and the one who has food must do the same." **Tax collectors** also came to be baptized, and they asked him, "Teacher, what should we do?" He told them, "Don't collect any more than what you have been authorized." Some **soldiers** also questioned him, "What should we do?" He said to them, "Don't take money from anyone by force or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages."

- ✓ People who have repented care about and share with others in need.
- ✓ People who have repented should be honest, trustworthy, and content with what God provides for their needs.

Tax collectors were typically viewed as dishonest people who often cheated their own Jewish people. These **soldiers** were likely Jewish mercenaries recruited to protect tax collectors or working for King Herod Antipas. These soldiers were known for mistreating their own people using **force or false accusation.**¹

REPENTANCE = a change of mind that results in a change of action.

The Evidence of Repentance is Obedience

¹ John Nolland, *Luke 1:1-9:20*, vol. 35A, Word Biblical Commentary (Dallas: Word, Incorporated, 1989), 150.

Hiding or Repenting?

Psalm 32:1-5 (CSB) How joyful is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered! How joyful is a person whom the Lord does not charge with iniquity and in whose spirit is no deceit! **When I kept silent**, my bones became brittle from my groaning all day long. For day and night **Your hand was heavy on me**; my strength was drained as in the summer's heat. *Selah* Then I acknowledged my sin to You and **did not conceal my iniquity**. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and **You forgave the guilt of my sin**. *Selah*

When David **kept silent**, refusing to confess his sin and turn from it, there was a heaviness in his life - a sense of wasting away - purposeless - Ever experienced THAT?

David finally humbled himself and brought his sin to God. God graciously forgave David and the Jews at the time of John's ministry, but they did not get to see how the Messiah would pay for sin proving **God's JUSTICE & God's GRACE**.

❓ **How can you trust that God has forgiven your PAST?** Your sin is IN THE PAST, because...

The Evidence of Repentance is Obedience

You don't obey **TO** be forgiven. You obey because you **ARE** forgiven.

Trust These Truths!

1 Peter 2:24 (CSB) He himself **bore our sins in His body on the tree**; so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness. **By His wounds you have been healed**.

2 Corinthians 5:21 (CSB) He made **the One** who did not know sin **to be sin for us**, so that in Him **we might become the righteousness of God**.

Ephesians 1:7-8 (CSB) **In Him we have redemption** through his blood, **the forgiveness of our trespasses**, according to the riches of His grace that He richly poured out on us with all wisdom and understanding.

❓ **Is there EVIDENCE of REPENTANCE in your life?**

Followers of Jesus

- **What is it in YOUR life that needs to be dealt with?** Tell another believer - ask them to pray for you, check on you, & celebrate with you.
- **When you share Jesus with others, don't give them a cheap, flimsy, false gospel.** Our goal isn't to get others to pray an insincere prayer, but to wave the white flag & surrender their lives.

Those who aren't yet followers of Jesus

- **Aren't you tired of feeling like David did**, covering up your sin, acting like it's not a big deal - yet having the heavy hand of God's conviction on your life?

🌟 **AW Tozer** "People on earth hate to hear the word repent. Those in hell wish they could hear it once more."

heretoserveyou

Have questions and need some help? ...real soon...how about now? Please **call** or **text** us soon!

* Contact **Jackie** (850-673-1582), **Christy** (850-673-9764), or another follower of Jesus soon!

* Or call our **deacons & wives**: Alan & Christy Androski (850-464-1428), Freddy & Joyce Howard (850-973-0047), Tim & Joni Hughey (850-464-1156), Mark & Dot Mancil (850-253-5405), Boss & Amelia Mulkey (850-464-6717), Jim & Derita Pinkard (850-464-6188), or Tom & Martha Waddail (850-973-0011).

discussionquestions

Take some time to discuss these questions with your family, friends, or group.

1. What challenged or encouraged you most from today's teaching? You might need to look back in your notes to help explain your answer.
2. **Read Luke 3:7-9.** What is the difference between real repentance and just feeling sorry/confessing sin? What is the warning to those who confess sin but don't repent of sin? What about people who don't repent but expect God to give them a "family discount"?
3. Fill in the blank from your notes. **Genuine _____ is the result of _____ repentance.** Explain why this is so. How is it true that obedience of the evidence of repentance?
4. The people left their homes and traveled to hear John the Baptist and consider their spiritual condition. When was the last time YOU took the time to get away from the daily distractions and consider your spiritual condition? What was the result? Is that something you need to do soon? Explain your answer.
5. **Read Luke 3:10-14.** What difference should repentance make in people's lives?
6. **Read Psalm 32:1-6.** What's the result of hiding our sin versus repenting of our sin? Is there any sin YOU have been hiding that you need to confess to God and a brother or sister?
7. What other questions has this teaching or discussion prompted for us to talk about? **Share prayer needs and pray for one another.**