

REPENTANCE? WHAT IS IT?

Act 2:36-38 -“Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. 37 Now when they heard [this], they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men [and] brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

What is this repentance that Peter speaks of?

It is often misrepresented in evangelization efforts

Jhn 6:38-42 -“For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me. 39 And this is the Father's will which hath sent me, that of all which he hath given me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up again at the last day. 40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day. 41 The Jews then murmured at him, because he said, I am the bread which came down from heaven. 42 And they said, Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? how is it then that he saith, I came down from heaven?”

- > Jesus in the Temple (?) states that He is better than Moses who gave them mana
- > Their fathers ate mana and died, Jesus stated that He is the bread of life
- > What were the Jews hung up on?
 - > Is not this Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know?
 - > “We knew his dad Joseph!” - made the table in our house

Mat 13:54-57 -“And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, Whence hath this [man] this wisdom, and [these] mighty works? 55 Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? 56 And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this [man] all these things? 57 And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.”

> During Christ's earthly ministry He returned to home - old stompin' grounds
> The crowds were taken aback by the authority and command of scriptures with which he taught in the synagogue

- > Makes sense since He is the Word
 - > What were the Jews hung up on?
 - > “This guy is the son of a carpenter!” - poor, no formal training
 - > “We know his mom, brothers, and sisters. They all live around here.”

Jhn 7:1-5 - “After these things Jesus walked in Galilee: for he would not walk in Jewry, because the Jews sought to kill him. 2 Now the Jews' feast of tabernacles was at hand. 3 His brethren therefore said unto him, Depart hence, and go into Judaea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. 4 For [there is] no man [that] doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world. 5 For neither did his brethren believe in him.”

- > In view of His growing popularity as a teacher and following as the Messiah, His siblings poke at him by telling Him to go to J'lem - “Go on with your bad self, Mr. Hot Shot”

- > This was not genuine
- > v.5 - Neither did his brethren believe on him
- > Looked on him like their crazy, big headed older brother - not their Messiah

Jhn 7:14-17 -“*Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught. 15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned? 16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me. 17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or [whether] I speak of myself.*”

- > Once again, the Jews were astonished that a poor, son of a carpenter, could have such an amazing grasp of the Scriptures
 - > Only the scribes and Pharisees, who dedicated their lives to the study and copying of the Old Testament were expected to know Scripture
 - > But Jesus exceeded their ability
- > What was the Jews hang up? -
 - > lack of education
 - > couldn't get past His apparent social class prejudices

Jhn 10:27-33 -“*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: 28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any [man] pluck them out of my hand. 29 My Father, which gave [them] me, is greater than all; and no [man] is able to pluck [them] out of my Father's hand. 30 I and [my] Father are one. 31 Then the Jews took up stones again to stone him. 32 Jesus answered them, Many good works have I shewed you from my Father; for which of those works do ye stone me? 33 The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*”

- > Jesus stated to a mixed crowd that He is “The” Good Shepherd
- > Jesus also states equality with God as His Father
 - > What were the Jews hung up on?
 - > The audacity of this country bumpkin son of a carpenter to claim equality with Jehovah
 - > The Jews prepared to kill Him according to the Law of Moses for making a claim that they believed was blasphemous - “You are just a man!”

There was nothing about Jesus’ appearance, family background, vocation, or education that shouted Messiah! Only His miracles, teaching, and how He treated others demonstrated that He was God. Now, fast forward a few years to Pentecost...

Acts 2:22-36 -“*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: 23 Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24 Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. 25 For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: 26 Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: 27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. 28 Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. 29 Men [and] brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day. 30 Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God*

had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; 31 He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. 32 This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33 Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. 34 For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, 35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool. 36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.”

- > “Ye men of Israel, hear these words” - many of the people in the crowd probably would have been skeptics of Christ’s ministry, in the streets outside the Judgment Hall waiting for Pilate’s verdict, some shouting “crucify him”, present for Christ’s crucifixion,
- > “Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you...” - the man you thought was nothing more than a blasphemous, backwoods, son of a carpenter was actually proven to be God by the many signs and miracle He accomplished
- > “Which ye know” - you can’t deny it; you have seen or heard the reports
- > This “man” was the focal point of God’s plan from eternity past in which it as determined that he would be turned over into the hands of evil men, and you are the ones who crucified Him
- > “You” crucified Him but God raised Him from the dead - for that matter death couldn’t hold Him
- > This “man” Jesus of Nazareth fulfilled the prophecies of King David
 - > The One whose soul would not be left in the grave and neither did his physical body experience the decay that comes with death
 - > The One who is seated at the right hand of God awaiting His future coronation as King of kings, and Lord of lords
- > “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly” - This Jesus of Nazareth, the One you thought was a blasphemous, backwoods, son of a carpenter is Lord of All and the Resurrected Glorified Savior

“Now when they heard [this], they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men [and] brethren, what shall we do? 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”

- > “they were pricked in their heart” - heart is the seat of ones emotions
 - > pricked - *katanusso* - to strike, prick violently; figuratively used of strong emotional response
 - > Peter’s sermon stirred up a strong emotional response in the hearts of those in the crowd - they were already **GRIEVED** by what they heard - recognition of how they had rejected Jesus of Nazareth and sent Him to the cross
 - > They were already feeling really bad about what they did when they asked the next question...
- > “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” - or maybe “what must we do to be saved?”
- > “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost”

- > Repent - *metanoia* - literally a change of mind
 - > a change of perspective on a thing or circumstance that results in a new outlook
 - > change your mind about who Jesus of Nazareth is, not the blasphemous, backwoods, son of carpenter you originally believed Him to be but actually Lord of Lords and the Resurrected Glorified Savior
 - > Not telling them they need to feel bad about their sin, regret all that they have done, the wicked terrible life they led (might happen but not a necessity)

Mat 27:3-5 - *“Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, 4 Saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What [is that] to us? see thou [to that]. 5 And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.”*

- > Repented himself - *metamelomai* - “to have pain again or afterwards”
 - > But mere sorrow avails nothing unless it leads to change of mind and life (*metanoia*), the sorrow according to God (2Co 7:9). This sorrow Peter had when he wept bitterly. It led Peter back to Christ. But Judas had only remorse that led to suicide. - Robertson’s Word Pictures
 - > it implies no change of heart or life, but merely remorse or regret. - Cambridge Bible
 - > Change your mind about Jesus and place your faith in the news facts you have been confronted with