

Foundations - Repentance and Baptism

It is ok to split this bible study in two:

Intro:

When we've heard and understood the Good News, that is the gospel of Jesus it puts us in a place to respond. When we respond in faith, trusting that God loves us, and desires to forgive us, we are drawn to him. The proper response is to repent and be baptized, what do these words mean and what does it look like in our lives. That is what today's lesson is all about.

1. Repentance

Metanoia - greek for repentance - A transformed mind; looking at life and making decisions about your life in a godly way verses your old way of thinking (in the New Testament)

Shuba - Hebrew for repentance - To destroy the house (your evil ways) - so as not to return, but to turn completely to the Lord (in the old Testament)

What does this look like? John the Baptist shows us an example of repentance

Luke 3:8-14

- What do you see in the scriptures about what John teaches? What are the people called to do, specifically?
- Our repentance should be visible to others in some way, even to ourselves that we are changed in mind and heart

What does biblical repentance look like?

2 Corinthians 7:10-11

- Godly sorrow brings repentance - Genuine sorrow leads to transformation
- It is as different as night and day.
- Worldly sorrow brings death - If we only "feel bad" but do not change, we end up doing the same sort of things that we did before and that results in death.

- Repentance produces
- Earnestness
- Eagerness to clear yourself
- Indignation
- Alarm
- Longing
- Concern
- Readiness to see justice done

So how does God feel about our repentance?

Luke 15:1-24 (all three parables are good to demonstrate how God feels)

- In Luke 15 Jesus shares 3 parables to teach us how God feels about us when we repent.
- He uses 3 examples
- A shepherd who found his lost sheep - leaving the 99 to find the one. The shepherd gathers his friends and calls them to rejoice with him over finding his sheep. Jesus says heaven rejoices the same way.
- Verse 7 highlights sentiment
- Then in the second example a woman who lost a coin. Upon finding it she also gathers her friends and rejoices. Again Jesus explains what happens in heaven when someone repents.
- Verse 10 Shows sentiment
- And then finally a story about a father with two sons and one leaves with his inheritance and loses everything to wild living. We see a great example of a loving father and his warm welcome to his returning son.

We pick up the story when the boy repents and then we see the fathers response.

Luke 15:11-24

- Do you notice when the son repented? (Verse 17)
- How did the Father respond? What do you see? (This is God in the story)
- God celebrates when we repent.

What areas in your life do you need to repent?

Areas of sinful living? Areas of faith in God?

2. Baptism

John 3:3-8

- What does Jesus teach here?
- Born again
- Baptism is when we are born again
- Baptism is when we get the Spirit

What happens at Baptism?

Romans 6:1-4

- Explain how we die in the water and are fully buried like Jesus in the tomb, then raised to our new life in Christ.
- We die to ourselves
- We are raised to new life

Lets look at the message from Peter in Acts two one more time

What happens when we repent and are baptized?

Acts 2:37-39

- We are forgiven when we are baptized and we also receive the Holy Spirit.

Look at these passages (more good news)

2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13-14

What do you see in these passages?

- We receive the Holy Spirit when we are baptized

What good news that God does not leave us in our sin doomed for destruction. He has given us life in the Son he loves and we find redemption for our souls. The Good news that we are now forgiven and given His Holy Spirit when we repent and are baptized in His name.