



## Week 4- "Redefining Repentance"

Over the last few weeks, we have been looking at a story Jesus told known as the "Prodigal Son." In this story, Jesus redefined what the world knew about God, sin, and salvation. In this week's message, we look at what Jesus did to redefine repentance. Repentance is so often misunderstood, especially when it comes to our understanding of salvation and what it takes to be "right with God." In this story Jesus takes this word and redefines it in a way that changes our lives.

1. Based on what you have been told and come to understand, how would you define the word *repentance*? In your experience how has the church defined repentance?
2. Do you believe that sin management is a necessary practice in order to be right with God? Why or why not? Have you found yourself striving to be right with God?

### Read Luke 15:1-10

3. Why do you think Christians so often live and portray that in order to be forgiven you must change your behavior and act a certain way?

The word *repent* comes from the Greek word *metanoia* and it means "to change one's mind." A Greek dictionary adds: "to change one's way of life as the result of a complete change of thought and attitude with regard to sin and righteousness." Repentance points to a discovery of who God really is, who we really are, and what God has done for us. The "Prodigal Son" story points to:

- A God who is a compassionate Father and not an angry judge.
- Sin is an inward reality that is not about "bad behavior" but the reality that we have a sin disease.
- Jesus told the story of the prodigal son, the lost sheep, and the lost coin to help us understand that He came to be a Doctor to heal us from our disease.

4. Discuss the truth that repentance does not mean stop being sick and stop sinning. Instead it means realizing you are sick, that you have a sin disease, and that Jesus is the only One that can save you when you surrender to Him.

5. Is it hard for you to acknowledge that you have a sin disease and need Jesus to heal you? If so, what questions do you have?

**Read Luke 15:17-20**

**In the story, the son “came to his senses” and set out to go back to his Father. That was the moment of repentance. The son still had a misunderstanding of repentance and yet the Father didn’t wait until He begged for forgiveness or promised never to mess up again before He met him with a kiss and a celebration.**

6. In what ways does redefining repentance help you see things differently?

7. Is it hard for you to trust that God celebrates when you turn to Him? Do you struggle to trust that He is not judging you or holding you accountable for the mistakes you have made?

8. If you have never been able to take a step of repentance will you allow this prodigal son story that Jesus told to help show you the truth about God, sin, who you are, and what repentance really means? Repentance is simply acknowledging who He is, who you are, and what He has done for you.

**When you discover how good God is, you stop trying to change yourself, save yourself, and instead surrender to the only One that can save you. True repentance is when you turn to God, and place your trust in Him.**