

5-Day Devotional: The Call to Repentance
Pastor Jay Hassman
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Day 1: The Kingdom at Hand

Reading: Mark 1:14-15; Psalm 24:3-5

Devotional: Jesus began His ministry with a clear call: "Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand." These weren't words of condemnation but invitation. The Kingdom wasn't distant. It was breaking into history, demanding a response. When God's holiness draws near, something in us must change. Repentance isn't about shame; it's about preparation. Just as soil must be tilled before planting, our hearts need softening before the Kingdom can fully take root. Today, ask yourself: Is there any area resisting His rule? Any compromise you've justified? The King is near, and He's inviting you to prepare room for His reign. Repentance clears space for what God wants to pour into your life.

Day 2: Breaking Up Fallow Ground

Reading: Hosea 10:12; Luke 3:1-14

Devotional: Fallow ground is soil neglected so long it becomes hard and unproductive. Our hearts can become fallow too and not always through rebellion, but through drift, distraction, or disappointment. Hosea's call to "break up your fallow ground" is a call to spiritual renewal. John the Baptist prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance, plowing hard hearts before the Savior arrived. What has hardened in your heart? Where has spiritual neglect created resistance to God's voice? Repentance is the plow that breaks through our defenses. It softens what time has hardened and realigns what has drifted. This Lenten season, invite the Holy Spirit to till the soil of your soul, making it receptive to the seeds of Kingdom life.

Day 3: Godly Sorrow Brings Life

Reading: 2 Corinthians 7:10; Luke 15:11-24

Devotional: There's a profound difference between worldly sorrow and godly sorrow. Worldly sorrow produces shame and regret—"I hate that I got caught." Godly sorrow produces repentance leading to life—"I want to turn and come home." The prodigal son experienced this transformation. When he "came to himself," he didn't wallow in self-hatred; he turned toward home. And what did he find? A father already running toward him. Repentance isn't groveling before an angry God; it's turning toward a Father who's been watching for your return. Shame says hide. Hope says come home. Today, if you're carrying quiet guilt or private compromise, know this: conviction is proof God hasn't abandoned you. He's drawing you back with cords of love.

Day 4: The Hope of Cleansing

Reading: Psalm 51:1-12; 1 John 1:9

Devotional: After his devastating failure, David didn't run from God instead he ran to Him. "Create in me a clean heart, O God," he prayed. This is the heart of true repentance: not hiding in shame but seeking restoration. God's promise through John is stunning: "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." Faithful. Just. Cleanse. These aren't words of condemnation but covenant love. The enemy uses shame to trap you in silence, whispering, "You've gone too far." But God's mercy is always greater. Repentance doesn't magnify your sin; it magnifies His grace. Every time you turn, you discover He was ready to receive you. What are you carrying that God wants to cleanse today?

Day 5: From Death to Resurrection Life

Reading: Romans 6:1-11; John 11:38-44

Devotional: Repentance leads to resurrection. This is the promise we cannot miss. Jesus began His ministry calling us to repent and ended it demonstrating resurrection power. The pattern is clear: before the empty tomb came the cross; before victory came surrender; before resurrection came dying. Repentance is a kind of dying to pride, control, self-rule. But in Christ, every death births something better. When Lazarus emerged from the tomb, Jesus said, "Unbind him and let him go." That's what repentance does—it unbinds you from what has held you captive and releases you into newness of life. You may feel buried in guilt or regret, but repentance rolls the stone away. Resurrection breath enters your lungs again. As you journey toward Easter, remember resurrection power flows only through surrendered hearts.