



## “A Message of Repentance” (Mark 6:6b-29)

Danny Hodges - NT3680

John 3:1-3; 4:17

II Tim.4:1-5; While this prophetic Scripture is no doubt true, it is interesting to me that throughout history there have been plenty of people available to tell people what they want to hear. During OT days, the majority

See Isaiah 30:9-11

I cannot tell you how many times I have moved on to the next passage to teach here at CCSP and desired a different text, and a different message. So many of the messages, if preached correctly for what they say, are confrontational, and convicting.

II Peter 2:5 Noah, a preacher of righteousness

Man who had a terrible addiction to pornography, his wife caught him viewing it, I met with him and he asked me what he should do, because it had obviously threatened his marriage. I said he needed to first and foremost repent. He looked at me a deer in the headlights gaze, then began to talk about his upbringing, his parents, and wondering why he was doing the things he was doing. Now I don't want to be accused of being a simpleton. I understand that people's environment can affect them, but while that is true, nobody will stand before God in the judgment and be able to blame their sin on their environment, upbringing, etc. I believe one of the reasons for the thousand year reign of Christ is to prove that even without Satan around, man still tends toward sin and rebellion against God. See James 1:14.

Has anyone noticed the tremendous challenge in preaching a message of repentance? If I preach a message of repentance to others, I should have already repented myself.

When we preach repentance, we must be prepared for resistance to our message. Occasionally the one preaching the message of repentance got an overwhelmingly positive response, but it is rare. Haggai, Jonah.

- It is the same message Jesus preached; Matt.4:17
- It is the same message the disciples preached; Mark 6:7, 12; Acts 2:36-38; 3:15-20; 17:29-30; 26:19-20.

Everyone needs to repent (Luke 13:1-5; Rom.3:23)

- Acts 17:30...he commands all people everywhere to repent.

God desires that everyone repent (II Peter 3:9)

- Ezekiel 18:32...I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

What repentance does:

- Repentance removes obstacles between me and God (Isa.40:4; Luke 3:5)
- “Every valley shall be filled in, every mountain and hill made low. The crooked roads shall become straight, the rough ways made smooth.”
  - Valleys filled in (“You’re a low life”); A person considered morally unacceptable by their community.
  - Mountains and hills made low (Pride/arrogance); They are “too big for their britches.” This phrase was coined by Davy Crockett, referring to Andrew Jackson.
  - Crooked roads made straight (Dishonest; a crook)
  - Rough ways made smooth (You’re tough; a rebel)

Repentance is a prerequisite for salvation.

- Repent and believe the good news.
- Drugs and alcohol once stood in between me and God. There was a time I loved pot more than I loved girls. If you’re in that particular situation, you really got a problem!
- Back in the day, my girlfriend stood in between me and God. For a long time I was not at all interested in repenting of the sin I was committing as a result of my relationship with her. But after a while I began to really be convicted. During some of my times of conviction I would get moody and she would ask me what was wrong. Finally one night I said, “I’m not right with God.” Despite the conviction,

and my confession to her, I still did not want the relationship to end. But end it did. She broke up with me. I was devastated! But as I look back now, I'm very thankful. First of all, she was not God's will for my life. Also, had our relationship continued, I might never have gotten right with God. That break-up ultimately paved the way for Jesus to come into my life, and the rest is history.

- Repentance = A change of mind & purpose
- A change of mind that leads to a change in action.
- More than tears/emotion (Hebrews 12:16-17)

### The mystery of repentance

- It is a gift of God
  - II Timothy 2:25 Opponents must be gently instructed, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth.
  - Acts 11:18...God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.
  - John 6:44 No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him...
- It is a personal choice
  - Jer.5:3; Rev.9:20; Matt.21:32

### Repentance can be resisted

- Heb.3:7-15; 4:7; Acts 7:51 (always resist the Holy Spirit)
- Rev.9:20-21; 16:9

### Repeated resistance can result in potentially damning conditions:

- Calloused heart
  - Isa.6:10; Matt.13:15; Acts 28:27
- Given over to a sinful lifestyle
  - Romans 1
- Destruction
  - Prov.29:1 Whoever remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed – without remedy.

### Repentance is needed even after salvation

- We live in a culture where people are looking more for psychological answers to our problems than a simple and straightforward message of our need to repent.
  - Bill & Lon Barclay

- For the Christian, repentance removes the obstacles between us and God regarding fellowship, peace, the fruit of the Spirit, God’s will for our lives, our witness in the world, etc.
- 5 of the 7 letters to the churches in Revelation
  - Ephesus: Left your first love; What does it mean that they had forsaken their first love?
    - A personal passion for Jesus Christ
      - Increased in knowledge but not in love; Ephesus was a well taught church, Paul spent two years there teaching & preaching (Acts 19:10). But if knowledge increases without love, we have lost our way (See I Cor.13:1-3; I Cor.8:1 Knowledge puffs up, love builds up).
      - Serving took priority over sitting at Jesus’ feet (Luke 10:38-42).
    - Intimate fellowship with other believers
      - Numerical growth made it easy to get lost in the crowd.
      - Relationships became strained over time (Eph.4:2-3)
      - Think about how relational you used to be, but now you park in the back, get here just in time to come into the service without having to engage anyone personally, leave immediately after we dismiss, or as soon as you know I’m wrapping things up.
  - Pergamum: Compromise with unbelievers that led to sexual immorality; bad company corrupts good character.
    - You’ve begun to hang with the wrong crowd; That’s what happened to me around the age of middle school.
    - Note: For King David, it was not the wrong crowd, it was simply an occasion where he let his guard down for just one night, and there was Bathsheeba. It is interesting to me that when Nathan the prophet confronted David regarding his sin, he did so by telling him a story about two men, one rich and the other poor. The rich man took advantage of this poor man by taking his only sheep for himself. David was enraged by this man’s actions. Doesn’t this tell us something about ourselves? When others sin the same way we do, we tend to look at their sin as worse than our own. Jesus said, “Why do you look at the speck in your brother’s eye when you have a plank

in your own?” Taking someone’s wife is far worse than taking someone’s sheep!

- Thyatira: Same failure as Pergamum; note Jesus tells this church that he had given them time to repent; Prov.29:1 He who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy. For some of us, this is not our first confrontation about our need to repent. Don’t be fooled, God is not mocked. A man will reap what he sows.
- Sardis: Reputation that does not reflect reality
  - These are people who continue serving in the church, attending the meetings, but behind the scenes they are not living in obedience to Christ.
- Laodicea: Lukewarm
  - This is comfortable Christianity; Laodicea lay at the juncture of two major trade routes between Rome and the Orient. One of these routes was the great Roman Road, which ran right through Laodicea. It became a prime place for trade and commerce. It was the wealthiest of all seven cities of the seven churches. It became a popular place for wealthy people to retire. The city was known for its banks, and it became the banking center for the region. There was a medical school in the city that produced an eye salve, something quite unique in this day, and as result very valuable, and in much demand. Entertainment was a big thing in Laodicea, and still today there are standing ruins of a 30,000 seat amphitheater. Health resorts were built just outside of Laodicea to take advantage of the many hot springs in the area.
  - David said, “Shall I offer to the Lord that which costs me nothing?”

God uses a variety of life situations in order to motivate people to repent

- Rom.2:4 God uses kindness in order that people might repent
- Jer.31:17-19; God disciplines in order that people might repent
- Amos; Rev.9 & 16; God uses calamity in order that people might repent

People who repent never regret it

- Acts 3:19 Repent then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

- When we repent, God is able then to baptize and fill us with his Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the One who brings the times of refreshing.
  - Refreshing = A cooling; recovery of breath; revival.
- II Cor.7:10-11 (Read); Note that even though verse 11 refers to repentance that leads to salvation, verse 11 refers to repentance *after* salvation.

## CONCLUSION

- Do you need to repent and receive Jesus Christ as Lord & Savior? Do you need to repent as a Christian?
- In responding to John's ministry they came openly and confessed; In Acts 19:18 (Ephesus) they came and openly confessed; with Jesus people often came openly...