

## Repentance Matthew 21:28-31

Longer passages are not quoted in the study sheet, but they can be read in the accompanying transcript.

Someone said, “You cannot repent too \_\_\_\_\_ because you don’t know how soon it will be too \_\_\_\_\_.” We’re now in the third part of our series on \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel. Two weeks ago we studied about \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel. Last week we explored what it means to \_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus Christ. Today we’re looking at the importance of repentance in responding to the \_\_\_\_\_ of God. As always, the Bible will be our \_\_\_\_\_ because we know the Bible gives us God’s true teaching. We want to \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ God, so we’re going to take the time to hear what He actually says about this and every other topic.

The New Testament \_\_\_\_\_ the great love that Jesus showed to sinners. The Pharisees criticized the Lord Jesus Christ for \_\_\_\_\_ with tax-collectors and sinners. In those days, the Pharisees, though a small group, had bullied the Jewish society into following their \_\_\_\_\_ traditions. They had no \_\_\_\_\_ in their hearts for anyone but those who followed their dictates. But Jesus followed a truer, better \_\_\_\_\_ that showed the love and compassion of God for all.

Jesus touched the \_\_\_\_\_ and told the story of the Prodigal Son. Jesus cared about \_\_\_\_\_ soul. The Lord said, “For the Son of Man has come to \_\_\_\_\_ and to \_\_\_\_\_ that which was lost” (Luke 19:10). Let’s be clear, just because Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ sinners didn’t mean that He tolerated their sin. Jesus told the man that he healed on the Sabbath Day, “do not sin \_\_\_\_\_, so that nothing worse happens to you” (John 5:14). The Lord Jesus doesn’t \_\_\_\_\_ us where He \_\_\_\_\_ us. He \_\_\_\_\_ us up out of sin and transforms our lives. Oh, thanks be to God.

### **Our reading today is from the words of Jesus in the Gospel According to Matthew 21:28-31.**

The New Testament word “repentance” comes from the Greek word metanoia: “meta” means “after”; and “noia” means “thought.” Repentance then is an afterthought. People use an afterthought to \_\_\_\_\_ their ways, to \_\_\_\_\_ their thinking. An afterthought yields to us a \_\_\_\_\_ way of thinking, different from our former thoughts. Considering the destructive \_\_\_\_\_ of sin and the loving grace of God, penitent people have a change of heart and mind that leads to a change of life and behavior.

The Lord Jesus was, and still is, in the \_\_\_\_\_ business, but salvation includes transforming the life of those who follow Him. That transformation included what \_\_\_\_\_ would do for us in His grace and forgiveness, and what \_\_\_\_\_ must do. God \_\_\_\_\_ His people to believe and repent. The Lord Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ repentance to the Jews of His day. After his baptism and

temptation, Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ His ministry preaching throughout Galilee. Matthew 4:17 says, “From that time Jesus began to preach and say, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at \_\_\_\_\_.’”

When the Pharisees grumbled at Jesus for eating with tax-collectors and sinners, Jesus replied, “It’s not those who are \_\_\_\_\_ who need a physician, but those who are \_\_\_\_\_. I have not come to \_\_\_\_\_ the righteous but sinners to repentance” (Luke 5:31-32).

When Jesus sent the twelve out into the towns and villages of Galilee, He called for those cities to \_\_\_\_\_. **Read in Matthew 11:20-24 what Jesus said when some of the towns rejected Him.**

Jesus was serious. Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ sinners, but He \_\_\_\_\_ them to repent. Repentance is not \_\_\_\_\_. If we wish to \_\_\_\_\_ God and be right with Him, we \_\_\_\_\_ repent. **Read what Jesus said in Luke 13:2-5.** If we wish to please the Lord, we too must repent.

**Read what the apostle Paul told the pagan philosophers on Mars’ Hill in Athens in Acts 17:30-31.** God won’t do your repenting for you, as some people suppose. God \_\_\_\_\_ you and everyone to repent.

Peter likewise \_\_\_\_\_ men to repent and be baptized for the remission of their sins on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2:38. The apostle Peter wrote, “The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not \_\_\_\_\_ for any to perish but for all to come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9). God doesn’t want anyone to be \_\_\_\_\_; but when people refuse to repent, they sadly \_\_\_\_\_ their sins over God. When people say no to God, they \_\_\_\_\_. On the other hand, the Lord God celebrates when people change their lives and \_\_\_\_\_ Him.

**Read in Luke 15:4-7 the parable the Lord Jesus told to respond to the Pharisees who were grumbling because He ate with sinners.** When a person turns his life around and leaves his sin, the God of Heaven \_\_\_\_\_.

Some people think repentance is a punishment, but actually it’s \_\_\_\_\_ for our souls. Some \_\_\_\_\_ about all the things they have to give up, but the heart that loves God finds new and wonderful \_\_\_\_\_ in righteous living. He trades the \_\_\_\_\_, destructive habits for a \_\_\_\_\_ and real joy in Christ. You don’t give up \_\_\_\_\_ pleasure to become a Christian. You give up the \_\_\_\_\_, sinful pleasures that end up enslaving and destroying you. But you take on new, \_\_\_\_\_ joys that are indescribable and everlasting. Jesus said, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have \_\_\_\_\_, and have it abundantly” (John 10:10). Oh, we have an abundant life in Christ that keeps getting \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

Repentance is \_\_\_\_\_ than ceasing to sin. While repentance requires a person to \_\_\_\_\_ doing evil, it also turns his \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord. A penitent person learns to despise the \_\_\_\_\_ he did in the past, yes; but repentance also \_\_\_\_\_ in the heart a hunger and thirst for

righteousness. A penitent person wants to \_\_\_\_\_ God everyday and completely. The Ephesians made known their repentance by \_\_\_\_\_ from paganism and superstition, "bringing their books (of magic) together and \_\_\_\_\_ them in the sight of all" (Acts 19:19). I wonder if there are some sinful things in our lives that also need to be \_\_\_\_\_. They may be books, movies, or songs. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ our hearts of evil thoughts, ugly ways, and selfish intents.

When a person repents, he must also \_\_\_\_\_ his life with the Lord and His teaching. **Read the illustration the Lord Jesus gave in Matthew 12:43-45.** When a person is forgiven of sin but \_\_\_\_\_ to fill his life with the Lord, he becomes vulnerable to terrible sins coming back into his heart. One may cease to do evil, but real repentance means one lovingly fills his life with the Lord's \_\_\_\_\_.

When a person repents, he'll be truly \_\_\_\_\_ for his sin against God. He's sorry that he hurt and grieved God by his transgression of God's \_\_\_\_\_. He's also sorry when he realizes that Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ on the cross for his sin. The Bible says, "He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Peter 2:24). It was our sins, our lust, and our selfishness that \_\_\_\_\_ Jesus to the cross. Repentance means that we've taken \_\_\_\_\_ how grievous sin is to God and how destructive it is.

Sin \_\_\_\_\_ us from God. Thankfully, God is willing to \_\_\_\_\_ when we repent. But once we come to God, we can no longer \_\_\_\_\_ in sin. Paul once asked, "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?" (Romans 6:1-2). Because we love God, we can't \_\_\_\_\_ grieving God with our sins.

A penitent person is also sorry for his sins against other \_\_\_\_\_. He realizes that his sins have caused other people to \_\_\_\_\_. We hurt others with what we \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. When we sin, we \_\_\_\_\_ others to sin. Jesus said that one who sets a \_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_ before a little one sins grievously (Matthew 18:6-9). The penitent person also mourns because of the \_\_\_\_\_ that his sin has caused against himself. Solomon said, "His own iniquities will \_\_\_\_\_ the wicked, and he will be held with the cords of his sin" (Proverbs 5:22). Every person who sins eventually has to \_\_\_\_\_ the consequences of his sin. The sinner's life unalterably \_\_\_\_\_ in misery and regret.

A person who loves God, however, wants something \_\_\_\_\_. He wants an opportunity to \_\_\_\_\_ his life and live a clean and righteous life. After his sin with Bathsheba, David \_\_\_\_\_ for something better than his selfish, lustful, and hurtful ways. David prayed, "Create in me a \_\_\_\_\_ heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10). Hungering

to do what is good and right \_\_\_\_\_ the heart of a penitent man. This sorrow for sin and hunger for righteousness means that he will \_\_\_\_\_ what is evil and \_\_\_\_\_ what is good. Romans 12:9 says, “Abhor what is evil; cling to what is good.” This doesn’t say hate evil \_\_\_\_\_; it says hate what is evil.

If I love God, I will hate what is evil and hurtful. I can love a \_\_\_\_\_ while hating the evil that he does. I can love a \_\_\_\_\_ while hating the evil a drunk does to his \_\_\_\_\_ while he’s drunk. Christians call people to change their behavior because they \_\_\_\_\_ them, and they know how sinful behavior will cause them \_\_\_\_\_. We don’t speak out against sin because we are \_\_\_\_\_ of people. We speak out against sin because we hate the \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of sin. Christians love their enemies and \_\_\_\_\_ for them.

Paul describes how a Christian should \_\_\_\_\_ with those caught up in sin. **Read 2 Timothy 2:24-26.** God is truly in the \_\_\_\_\_ business, and so are we. But people can be so \_\_\_\_\_ by the devil that they think they’re all right spiritually when they’re actually lost.

So, we ask, why are we talking about repentance? Why are we \_\_\_\_\_ people to repent? We’re speaking this way because we love you and we want God’s \_\_\_\_\_ for you. You can’t be right with God \_\_\_\_\_ repenting of your sins and turning to Him. Sin can \_\_\_\_\_ your heart and cause you to be lost. Romans 6:23 says, “the wages of sin is \_\_\_\_\_.” We want you to know Christ and the \_\_\_\_\_ of forgiveness and eternal life.

Don’t let sin harden your heart and \_\_\_\_\_ you of eternal life. Don’t stiffen your neck and \_\_\_\_\_ to change your ways. You’re grieving God and just \_\_\_\_\_ yourself. Like the prodigal, come back \_\_\_\_\_ to God, and do it today. God won’t \_\_\_\_\_ you to repent, but He does lovingly \_\_\_\_\_ to you to repent. You need to know, however, that if there’s no repentance, neither is there any \_\_\_\_\_. The Lord promises forgiveness to penitent people who change their lives, but there’s no promise for the person who time after time refuses to \_\_\_\_\_ God. One day there will be an end to God’s \_\_\_\_\_ and a day of reckoning. **Read Isaiah 55:6-7.** If we \_\_\_\_\_ our repentance even one more day, we have a day more to repent of, and a day less to repent in.

Repentance is a change of heart that \_\_\_\_\_ to a change of life. We repent \_\_\_\_\_ we love the Lord and we believe in Him. Faith, love, and repentance \_\_\_\_\_ in the heart. I hope your heart looks at that old way of sin as something to be \_\_\_\_\_. I hope that you hunger for righteousness. If you believe and love the Lord and have repented of your sins, \_\_\_\_\_ Christ and be \_\_\_\_\_ in His name. Baptism is an immersion in water in the \_\_\_\_\_ of Jesus Christ. When you’re baptized, God will \_\_\_\_\_ away your sins; He’ll give you the gift of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:38 and 22:16. Oh, obey the Lord today!