

Repentance

Luke 13:1-5

Introduction:

- A. It is not easy to bring men to repentance — too interested in “saving face”.
- B. It was not easy to bring the Jews to repentance. (cf. Matt. 11:21; 12:41).
 - 1. They could see need in others. (vs. 2,4).
 - 2. They could not see own need. (vs. 3,5).
- C. Jesus’ admonition contains four significant words:

Discussion:

I. “*Repent*”– the Meaning of Repentance.

- A. It is not:
 - 1. Mere regret and/or admission of sin. (cf. Matt. 27:3,4)
 - 2. Mere sorrow for sin. (2 Cor. 7:9).
 - 3. Mere quitting of sin.
 - a. Suppose man left wife and family, later comes in sits at table without a word?
 - b. Do think prodigal son could have come home without confession and asking forgiveness?
- B. It is:
 - 1. A “change one’s mind or purpose ... for better, and amendment” (Vine)
 - 2. A change of mind prompted by godly sorrow. (2 Cor. 7:10; cf. Matt. 5:4).
 - 3. A change of mind followed by reformation. (Matt. 3:8; Acts 26:20).
 - a. Not a cheap “I am sorry” to regain approval of brethren, but a real change.
 - b. Restitution where possible. (cf. Luke 19:8).

II. “*Except*” – the Necessity of Repentance.

- A. No way to correct sin against God without it. (Rev. 3:5,16,21,22; cf. Ezek. 18:30-32)
 - 1. Alien sinners must repent. (Acts 2:38; 3:19).
 - 2. Sinning brethren must repent—of even one sin. (Acts 8:22).
- B. No way to correct sin against brethren without repentance. (Lk. 17:3,4).
- C. No way to “cover sins” without repentance (James. 5:19,20).
 - 1. Can’t “sweep under rug”.
 - 2. Need to confess to affected parties.

III. “*Perish*”– the Alternative to Repentance.

- A. To “perish” is forever. (Jno. 3:16; Matt. 25:46).
- B. To “perish” is not God’s will for us. (2 Pet. 3:9; Ez. 18:23).
 - 1. God sent Son to call us to repentance. (Matt. 9:13).
 - 2. Christ told his disciples to preach repentance. (Luke 24:47).
 - 3. God gives motive and opportunity for repentance. (Rm. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9,15).

IV. “*You*”– the Personal Nature of Repentance

- A. What if the Galileans and the 18 were “sinners above all” – the ones present still had to repent!
- B. The need to repent is universal because sin is universal (Acts 17:30; Rom. 3:10, 21)
 - 1. We cannot repent of anyone’s sins but our own.
 - 2. We can call others to repentance, but we cannot repent for them.
 - 3. Other people’s need for repentance does not remove my need.
 - a. “What I did is nor worse than what he/she/they are doing?”
 - b. “If I need to repent, what about he/she/them!”
 - c. “I will when he/she/they repent”!

Conclusion:

- A. Are guilty of unforgiven sin?
- B. Do you *believe* what Jesus said *twice* in our text?
- C. Are you willing to repent and obey today?