

CONNECT GROUP NOTES

RADICAL REPENTANCE



Encourage the group to take turns reading and answering questions. It is best to ask the questions as they appear instead of waiting till the end

TOPIC : Radical Repentance

Sermon audio:

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TIME TO PONDER:

Last week we dealt with questions about baptism. This week we are going to be looking at repentance. Why repentance? Repentance is the key to unlock the power of God in our lives and the church.

Acts 20:19

19 I served the Lord with great humility and with tears and in the midst of severe testing by the plots of my Jewish opponents.

After the service last week Brent was brought a prophetic Word - “Where are the tears?”

- No tears of repentance
- No tears of conviction
- No tears of compassion
- No tears of joy
- Only hardened hearts.

Someone once said “Soft words produce hard hearts and hard words produce soft hearts.” We need to speak the truth in love and allow the Holy Spirit to bring conviction which leads to radical repentance.

Question1: How soft is your heart? When was the last time you were drawn to tears by the Holy Spirit because of conviction for some area of your life or for the plight of others?

TIME TO REFLECT:

What exactly is repentance?

Metanoēō - to repent, to change any or all of the elements composing one's life: attitude, thoughts, and behaviours concerning the demands of God for right living.

To repent means to go after or go beyond where you are now. To repent means to change to a higher way of thinking.

Isaiah 55:9

*9 “As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.*

This no doubt is where Paul got the famous verse in Rom 12:2.

Romans 12:2

*2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world,
but be transformed by the renewing of your
mind. Then you will be able to test and*

*approve what God's will is—his good,
pleasing and perfect will.*

A changed life starts with changed thinking.
Repentance is changing your attitude,
thinking and behaviour to God's ways.

Why Repent?

1. Because repentance is an act of faith which opens the door for the next step to where God wants to take us.

Matthew 3:1-2

*1 In those days John the Baptist came,
preaching in the wilderness of Judea 2 and*

*saying, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven
has come near.”*

In other words, John prepared the way for Jesus by preaching repentance in prophetic anticipation of the kingdom of heaven breaking into the world.

To repent means to take a step of OBEDIENCE BEFORE you see any results

Eg. Normal thinking - I'll start giving when I start receiving more - **NO**. Repentant thinking is “I'll start giving now and trust the Word of God that says if I sow I will reap.”

Mark 1:14-15

14 After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 15 "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

The theme of Jesus preaching was the Kingdom of heaven is near and our response to that should be to repent.

The time has come - that means the King has come and we can be part of the Kingdom now.

2. Repentance is the DOORWAY into the good news of the Kingdom of heaven. Turning your free will over to God's will. So that you can be part of the Kingdom of a loving Father who only wants the best for you.

3. Because repentance saves you from eternal perishing!

Luke 13:5

5 I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

If you don't want to repent to enjoy the power of God's salvation and fellowship with the Father and to walk in his plans and purposes for you then repent to save yourself from perishing when judgement comes.

4. Because repentance prepares you to become a holy temple filled with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38

38 Peter replied, “Repent and be baptised, every one of you, in the name of

Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We can experience Immanuelle - God with us - here and now by the Holy Spirit in our lives.

5. Because repentance leads to peace with God and yourself.

Acts 3:19-20

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, 20 and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.

Peter adds further to the list of why we repent; so that times of refreshing may come from the Lord and the burden of sin

and guilt is washed away. Peace with God means healing to our hearts.

6. Because repentance is commanded by God. Not suggested.

Acts 17:30-31

30 In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent. 31 For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. He has given proof of this to everyone by raising him from the dead.”

Question 2: From these six reasons to repent, which one inspires you most?

TIME TO DISCUSS:

What does repentance actually look like?

What Jesus was looking for is not “sorry Lord” but a radical turn around in lordship.

Luke 19:8-9

8 But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

9 Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham.

BIG IDEA: We need to understand that we are saved by FAITH which is demonstrated by deeds of repentance.

We cannot earn salvation through our works, but we do need to prove our repentance through the fruit of faith.

Acts 26:20

20 First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

Luke 3:8-14 (NIV)

8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

There is an active working out of one's faith through repentance. Real repentance should result in a radical new lifestyle of faith. Repentance is not about STOP SINNING as much as it is about START FOLLOWING JESUS.

Question 3: Can you testify about something you have repented of and how you fought to renew your mind in this area?

ACTION STEP

What do we need to repent of?

Anything the Holy Spirit convicts you of:

- As you read his word
- As you hear a sermon
- If the Holy Spirit convicts you that your path is different to Jesus path, then repent.

Jesus is very serious about REPENTANCE

- Repent of Loss of first love for Jesus

Revelation 2:4-5

4 Yet I hold this against you: You have forsaken the love you had at first. 5 Consider how far you have fallen! Repent and do the things you did at first. If you do not repent, I will come to you and remove your lampstand from its place.

- Repent from holding to false teaching that endorses sexual immorality as acceptable to God.

Revelation 2:20-22

20 Nevertheless, I have this against you: You tolerate that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophet. By her teaching she misleads my servants into sexual immorality and the eating of food sacrificed to idols. 21 I have given her time to repent of her immorality, but she is unwilling. 22 So I will cast her on a bed of suffering, and I will make those who commit adultery with her suffer intensely, unless they repent of her ways.

- Repent for being spiritually dead on the inside while playing spiritual games on the outside.

Revelation 3:3

3 Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; hold it fast, and

repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you.

- Repent from lukewarm half commitment to Christ characterised by self sufficiency and no dependance on Christ.

Revelation 3:16 & 19

16 So, because you are lukewarm—neither hot nor cold—I am about to spit you out of my mouth.

19 Those whom I love I rebuke and discipline. So be earnest and repent.

- Repent of worldliness

Revelation 9:20-21

20 The rest of mankind who were not killed by these plagues still did not repent of the work of their hands

CONCLUSION:

“Repent for the kingdom of heaven is near”

If repentance is so radical, just imagine how radical the good news of the kingdom is?!

Jesus says the kingdom is like a man who finds a hidden treasure. In his joy he sells everything to buy the field and gain the treasure.

May the joy of discovering more of the Kingdom of God inspire us to turn completely from the world and pursue his Kingdom through repentance.

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