

What is the best way to kick start a repentant lifestyle?

Ask a gracious friend: "*Would you be willing to share with me just one thing that I maybe blind too, that causes offense or others to feel uncomfortable?*"

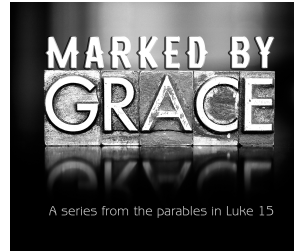
IV. What happens in churches that practice repentance?

1. There's gracious accountability with one another.

There will be no mercy for those who have not shown mercy to others. But if you have been merciful, God will be merciful when he judges you.
James 2:13

1. Where everyone is seeking repentance, no one is turned away.

For this son of mine was dead and has now returned to life. He was lost, but now he is found.' So the party began.
Luke 15:24



Dan Wilvers- January 22nd, 2017 Part 3

What is Repentance? Parable of the Lost Son

Luke 15:11–20

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. ¹⁴After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. ¹⁷When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! ¹⁸I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired men.' ²⁰So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him."

This is God's Word

I. The importance of repentance.

What is the fuse that ignites the father's love? vs. 17a *When he came to his senses,*

This phrase *he came to his senses* is what is meant by the word repentance

Which means, "*If you don't repent, God has nothing to give you.*"

So repentance is the key to everything.

2 Corinthians 7:10, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but worldly sorrow brings death."

II. What is the nature of repentance?

3 things we can learn:

1. *Repentance is coming to your senses.*

vs. 17a When he came to his senses,

The things in your life that create the most problems for you and in turn the people around you, by definition, are the ones you can't see, the one's you don't realize are true about your life.

**Repentance begins the moment
in which you see your thinking is wrong.**

2. *Repentance is about you and God first and foremost.*

"I will go to my father and I will say, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven ...vs. 18

All sin is in the end, against the goodness and greatness of God's perfection.

Why is that important to understand?

Pain can bring us to our senses. But it's very possible for you not to change (repent) because you were wrong, rather you desire to change simply to be free of the hurt alone.

There is a kind of repentance that focuses completely on feeling sorry for yourself, in which case you're going deeper into self-centeredness. You're not changing from it.

There is a kind of repentance that is focused on the goodness of God and how you've broken his heart, and because God is merciful, it's cleansing and liberating.

3. *Repentance is also about what you've done to others.*

"I have sinned against you (dad) I am not worthy to be called your son."
vs.18,19

III. What repentance isn't.

"Father, I have sinned against heaven. I have sinned against you. I am not worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired men."

vs. 18,19

What's a hired man? A domestic servant was someone who actually lived on the estate. He had room and board there. But a hired man was someone who lived in the town who was a day worker and just paid a wage

When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired men have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!' vs. 17

Here's the Lost Son's plan:

In the religious framework of his day, the son says, "*I'm going to earn it back. I'm going to pay it back. This way I can feed myself and make restitution.*"

What happens?

But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him." Vs. 20

The point of the parable is that any idea of repentance that includes earning your way back in is completely rejected.

The point is repentance has to do with brokenness, and humility, not earning our way back.

The high and lofty one who lives in eternity, the Holy One, says this:
"I live in the high and holy place with those whose spirits are contrite and humble. I restore the crushed spirit of the humble and revive the courage of those with repentant hearts. Isaiah 57:15

Forgive me for shedding blood, O God who saves;...16 You do not desire a sacrifice, or I would offer one. You do not want a burnt offering.17 The sacrifice you desire is a broken spirit. You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God. Psalm 51:14,16-17