



Faith

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Focus



*for
Teens*

*Sunday
School
Services*

Zion Assembly Church of God

Basic Bible Teachings

“Repentance” – February 3, 2013

Lesson – What Shall We Do?

Scriptures – Acts 2:22-38

Introduction to lesson

In Acts chapter two, Luke recorded a brief history of the events surrounding the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost. Just as Jesus promised, at least one hundred and twenty saints were baptized with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in tongues. After being baptized with the Holy Ghost, Peter powerfully preached the Word of God: Jesus Christ crucified and resurrected. Through Peter’s anointed preaching on that day, the Holy Ghost reprovved (convicted) the people when they heard the Truth. The title of today’s lesson explains the question that Holy Ghost conviction stirs within our hearts. Before the Spirit reprovved us of our sins, we were not aware of God’s judgment against us. But after being convicted, we no longer feel good about ourselves. Today’s lesson explains the right response to conviction by the Holy Ghost.

Key Verse: “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do” (Acts 2:37)?

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ What was Peter’s main message for the people? (vv. 22-24)
- ✚ When the patriarch David prophesied, who was he talking about? (vv. 25-28)
- ✚ Who did God promise would sit on the throne of David? (vv. 29-30)
- ✚ What did God reveal to David about the Christ? (v. 31)
- ✚ Who did Peter declare was indeed the Christ, and what was his proof that he was the Christ? (v. 32)
- ✚ What was Peter’s explanation for all that happened on the day of Pentecost? (v. 33)
- ✚ When David prophesied, he was not speaking of himself. Who did David see exalted at the right hand of God? (vv. 34-36)
- ✚ When Peter finished preaching, what impact did the Truth have on the people? What was their immediate response? (v. 37)
- ✚ What did Peter tell them to do in response to God’s reproof (conviction by the Holy Ghost)? (v. 38)

Think about it: Repentance simply means to turn or change. It is a change in the heart of a sinner. True conviction causes a sinner to wrestle with his sinful condition: “What shall I do – what should I do about my sin and guilt?” The obvious answer is to stop sinning – to turn away from one’s sinful ways and to turn to God (Ezekiel 33:9, 11). Through the conviction of the Word and Spirit, God is calling sinners to repent.

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“Repentance” – February 10, 2013

Lesson – True Confession

Scriptures – Luke 19:1-10

Introduction to lesson

How would you like for someone to say to you, “I know I did you wrong, but I cannot or will not do anything to change my behavior toward you?” This statement shows some level of confession – it admits guilt. I did wrong. But it does not show genuine repentance. Remember from last week: repentance means to turn or change. It’s a change of heart, and it means to turn away from one’s sin and to turn toward God. I may know that I did wrong, but am I willing to change? In my heart, do I really intend to change my ways? When a person truly confesses, he admits his guilt with a sincere intent to change or correct his wrong behavior. In today’s lesson, we will see an example of a true confession.

Key Verse: “He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy” (Proverbs 28:13).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Publicans or tax collectors were known as swindlers, taking more money than they should, and therefore, the Jews labeled them as sinners. What would lead us to believe that Zacchaeus was dishonest in his taxing practices? (v. 2)
- ✚ What desire was in the heart of Zacchaeus? How do you know his desire was sincere? (vv. 3-4)
- ✚ How did Jesus know his name? What did Jesus have in mind for Zacchaeus? (v. 5)
- ✚ What impact did this have on Zacchaeus? (v. 6)
- ✚ How did the people look at Zacchaeus, and how did they react when Jesus went to his home? (v. 7)
- ✚ How do we know that Zacchaeus saw himself as a sinner? (v. 8)
- ✚ What was the proof that Zacchaeus had a change of heart? (v. 8)
- ✚ Did Jesus respect Zacchaeus’ intentions? (v. 9)

Think about it: Jesus came to save the lost and sinners (v. 10). Zacchaeus was a known sinner. But when he met Jesus Christ, he had a change of heart. He did not want to do wrong anymore. He desired to change and correct his behavior. This is what we call genuine repentance: confession with a change of attitude and behavior. Genuine repentance says, “I know I did you wrong, but with God’s help I am going to do you right from this point forward.” Like Zacchaeus, those who come to Jesus Christ, admitting and turning away from their sins, will reap the mercy of God (Proverbs 28:13).

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Basic Bible Teachings

“Repentance” – February 17, 2013

Lesson – Changed Conduct

Scriptures – Mark 1:1-8; Luke 3:10-18

Introduction to lesson

Today’s lesson is all about the word “change.” When Jesus Christ saves us, we change. Salvation is a radical, life-changing experience. The Bible uses a number of contrasting ideas to help us understand the nature of this great change in our lives: death to life; darkness to light; sinner to saint; enemy to friend; and so on. Can you think of any others? In 2 Corinthians 5:17, the apostle Paul emphasized the radical change of salvation when he wrote, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things become new.” Clearly, we are called to “walk in newness of life” (Ro. 6:4). This is what it means to repent.

Key Verse: “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mk. 1:15).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ The word “gospel” means good news. It refers to the good news of salvation. Who is the central figure of the gospel? (Mk. 1:1)
- ✚ Who was sent to preach and prepare the way of Christ? (Mk. 1:2-4)
- ✚ When John was in the wilderness baptizing disciples, what message did he preach? (Mk. 1:4; see also Matthew 3:1-2)
- ✚ When the people believed his message and were baptized, what else did they do? (Mk. 1:5)
- ✚ Repentance includes confession or admission of sin and guilt. But John wanted more than an admission of guilt; he also wanted to see the evidence of a changed life (changed conduct). He told the multitude to “bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance” (Lu. 3:8). When the people asked, “What shall we do then,” what did John tell them to do? (Lu. 3:10-14)
- ✚ When John preached repentance (changed conduct) and baptized disciples, who was he pointing the people to believe in? (Mark 1:7-8; Lu. 3:15-18)

Think about it: Repentance (changed conduct) is an important part of the gospel of salvation. After John was imprisoned, Jesus began to preach the good news of the kingdom, saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mk. 1:15). Believing is only part of our salvation; repentance is the other part. To believe the good news of Jesus Christ and be baptized, and even to confess our sins, without real repentance, accomplishes little toward salvation. When we repent, we turn from our old way (sin) and we turn toward God’s way (righteousness). Repentance is a true change of heart that affects the way we live out our lives.

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“Repentance” – February 24, 2013

Lesson – Godly Sorrow

Scriptures – Psalm 51:1-17

Introduction to lesson

In Luke 17:3-4, Jesus said, “Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repent, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent; thou shalt forgive him.” Certainly, these verses teach us a great lesson about forgiveness. We are called to forgive completely because we have been forgiven completely. But these verses also raise a question about genuine repentance. Is saying “I repent” or “I’m sorry,” even repeatedly, the same as genuine repentance? The Bible says, “No.” Paul declared, “Godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation.” True repentance, the kind that brings forth salvation and lasting change, requires godly sorrow. Let’s look at David as an example of godly sorrow and true repentance.

Key Verse: “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death” (2 Co. 7:10).

Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Why did David write this psalm? (vv. 1-3)
- ✚ Who did David offend? Who did he sin against? Who could see his sinful heart? (vv. 4-6)
- ✚ What did he want God to do for him? (v. 7)
- ✚ What did he want God to restore? (vv. 8, 12)
- ✚ What did David ask the Lord to do about his sins? (v. 9)
- ✚ What did he desire the Lord to do inside of him? (v. 10)
- ✚ What did he not want the Lord to do? (v. 11)
- ✚ Through God’s salvation, what did David pledge to do? (v. 13)
- ✚ What does salvation cause us to do? (vv. 14-15)
- ✚ What does the Lord desire from us? (vv. 16-17)

Think about it: Many people feel bad about themselves because of the wrong they’re doing. Their sinful ways cause them much sorrow, but such sorrow does not change their wicked ways. However, when people experience the reproof (conviction) of the Holy Ghost, they see themselves as sinful and undone before God. Such guilt produces a godly kind of sorrow in their hearts. David described it as having a broken and contrite heart in Psalm 51:17. David was overwhelmed by a deep sense of sorrow for his sin and transgression, not only against man, but even more against God – a sorrow and brokenness that only God can heal. The apostle Paul described this experience as being “made sorry after a godly manner” (2 Cor. 7:9). This kind of sorrow in the heart gives an individual the right motivation to change or repent. In other words, when an individual is grieved about his sin in the same way God is grieved by his sin, he is moved to stop sinning. This conviction of the Holy Ghost produces the sorrowful motivation for real repentance and change in one’s heart.

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