

How To Recognize Real Repentance

Genesis 42-43

- I. We Want To Be Fully _____ Again (42:1-5)
- II. We're _____ When Tested (42:6-20)
- III. We Admit _____ For Our Sin And Punishment (42:21-25)
- IV. We Become _____ To The Danger Of Other Sins (42:26-38)
- V. We'll Do The _____ Thing When Desperate Because We Trust God Not Sin (43:1-14)
- VI. We Are Willing To Give _____ For Our Sin (43:15)
- VII. We Realize There Will Be A _____ One Day (43:16-34)

Conclusion:

1. **Salvation: When An Unbeliever Turns From Idols To The True God (Acts 17:29-31; 1 Th 1:9)**
Acts 17:29-31 ²⁹Being then God's offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. ³⁰The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, ³¹because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead."
1 Thessalonians 1:9b "How you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God"
2. **Sanctification: When A Believer Turns From His Sin To Be Right With God And His Brothers/Sisters In Christ (Lk 17:3)**
Luke 17:3 "Take heed to yourselves. If your brother sins against you, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him."

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- I. **We Want To Be Fully Trusted Again (42:1-5)**

- II. **We're Honest When Tested (42:6-20)**

- III. **We Admit Responsibility For Our Sin And Punishment (42:21-25)**

- IV. **We Become Sensitive To The Danger Of Other Sins (42:26-38)**

- V. **We'll Do The Right Thing When Desperate Because We Trust God Not Sin (43:1-14)**

- VI. **We Are Willing To Give Recompense For Our Sin (43:15)**

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Introduction:

- How do you know when your kids are really sorry – not just saying “I’m sorry”?
- When do you know you’re ready to trust a coworker or friend again?
- Was Joseph cruel to have this process play out with his brothers or was he prudent in testing them to make sure their hearts were genuinely repentant?

A. Change Of Mind

- *Metanoia* is a generic term
- It is the context that will indicate what we are to change our mind about
- Lewis Sperry Chafer: “Repentance, according to the Bible, is a complete change of mind and, as such, is a vital element in saving faith; but it should not now be required, as a separate act, apart from saving faith. The Biblical emphasis upon Gentile repentance or any repentance in this age will be more evident when the full meaning of the word ‘*believe*’ is understood.” (*Salvation*, p. 50-51)
- Mike Cocoris: “Repent’ simply means to change your mind. The context determines the object. In Hebrews 6:1, it is repentance from dead works. In Acts 20:21, it is repentance concerning God. The context of Acts 2:38 seems to indicate that Peter was urging the audience to change their mind about who Christ is. Of course, there are other passages where the object of repentance is sin (Acts 8:22), but that is determined by the context, not the word itself.” (*Lordship Salvation*, p. 11)
- Esau couldn’t change the mind of his father who gave his blessing to Jacob

Hebrews 12:17 “For you know that afterward, when he wanted to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no place for **Repentance**, though he sought it diligently with tears.

- Believers are to be repentant continually for sin in their lives
 - Luther: "Our Lord and Master Jesus Christ, in saying `Repent ye,'...willed that the whole life of believers should be repentance."
 - Calvin: "In one word I apprehend repentance to be regeneration, the end of which is the restoration of the Divine image within us...Wherefore, in this regeneration, we are restored by the grace of Christ to the righteousness of God, from which we fell in Adam.... And this restoration is not accomplished in a single moment, or day, or year. (*Institutes* III.III.9)
 - Spurgeon: “The man who knows that his sin is forgiven, does not cease to mourn for it. No, brethren, his mourning becomes deeper as his knowledge of his guilt becomes

greater. His hatred of sin grows in proportion as he understands that love of Christ by which his sin is put away." (Sermon: "Awake")

- "Repentance is to leave
The sin we loved before,
And show that we in earnest grieve
By doing so no more." (ibid)

2. Turning From Sin

- Horne: "Repentance includes a godly sorrow for sin. The remorse of the truly penitent involves a deep contrition of heart, not so much for the punishment to which he is exposed as for the indignity he has done to a holy and gracious God." (p. 50)
- Charles Spurgeon: "True repentance is always accompanied by sorrow.

"Repentance is a deep, radical, fundamental, lasting change; and you will find that, whenever you meet with it in Scripture, it is always accompanied with sorrow for past sin.

"And rest assured of this fact-- that the repentance which has no tear in its eye, and no mourning for sin in its heart, is a repentance which needs to be repented of.

"In such false repentance, there is no evidence of conversion, and no sign of the existence of the grace of God." (Sermon: "Awake")

- C.S. Lewis: "Fallen man is not simply an imperfect creature who needs improvement; he is a rebel who must lay down his arms....This process of surrender – this movement full speed astern – is what Christians call repentance. Now repentance is no fun at all. It is something much harder than merely eating humble pie. It means unlearning all the self-conceit and self-will that we have been training ourselves into for thousands of years. It means killing part of yourself, undergoing a kind of death."
- Joseph was dying inside to forgive them, but he had to be sure
- The future of the nation of Israel was at stake

I. We Want To Be Fully Trusted Again (42:1-5)

42:1 When Jacob learned that there was grain for sale in Egypt, he said to his sons, "Why do you look at one another?" 2 And he said, "Behold, I have heard that there is grain for sale in Egypt. Go down and buy grain for us there, that we may live and not die." 3 So ten of Joseph's brothers went down to buy grain in Egypt. 4 But Jacob did not send Benjamin, Joseph's brother, with his brothers, for he feared that harm might happen to him. 5 Thus the sons of Israel came to buy among the others who came, for the famine was in the land of Canaan.

- 2 years into a 7 year famine (after 7 years of plenty for Egypt)

- They were driven by hunger to go out of their comfort zone
- Trip to Egypt – 250-300 miles
- Round trip could take 6 weeks
- Egypt hated Israel – they were going at great risk
- Jacob didn't trust his sons with young Benjamin
- They already lost his favorite son of Rachel
- We will see how their hearts were protective of Benjamin (unlike selling Joseph into slavery 30 years earlier)

II. **We're Honest When Tested (42:6-20)**

6 Now Joseph was governor over the land. He was the one who sold to all the people of the land. And Joseph's brothers came and bowed themselves before him with their faces to the ground. 7 Joseph saw his brothers and recognized them, but he treated them like strangers and spoke roughly to them. "Where do you come from?" he said. They said, "From the land of Canaan, to buy food." 8 And Joseph recognized his brothers, but they did not recognize him. 9 And Joseph remembered the dreams that he had dreamed of them. And he said to them, "You are spies; you have come to see the nakedness of the land." 10 They said to him, "No, my lord, your servants have come to buy food. 11 We are all sons of one man. We are **honest** men. Your servants have never been spies."

12 He said to them, "No, it is the nakedness of the land that you have come to see." 13 And they said, "We, your servants, are twelve brothers, the sons of one man in the land of Canaan, and behold, the youngest is this day with our father, and one is no more." 14 But Joseph said to them, "It is as I said to you. You are spies. 15 By this you shall be tested: by the life of Pharaoh, you shall not go from this place unless your youngest brother comes here. 16 Send one of you, and let him bring your brother, while you remain confined, that your words may be tested, whether there is truth in you. Or else, by the life of Pharaoh, surely you are spies." 17 And he put them all together in custody for three days.

18 On the third day Joseph said to them, "Do this and you will live, for I fear God: 19 if you are honest men, let one of your brothers remain confined where you are in custody, and let the rest go and carry grain for the famine of your households, 20 and bring your youngest brother to me. So your words will be verified, and you shall not die." And they did so.

- The brothers wouldn't recognize Joseph
- Joseph was 20 years older than when he was sold out at 17
- Darker complexion, fluency in Egyptian language, clean shaven, dressed royally
- But no doubt Joseph remembered his 10 brothers

III. **We Admit Responsibility For Our Sin And Punishment (42:21-25)**

21 Then they said to one another, "In truth we are guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the distress of his soul, when he begged us and we did not listen. That is why this distress has come upon us." 22 And Reuben answered them, "Did I not tell you not to sin against the boy? But you did not listen. So now there comes a reckoning for his blood." 23 They did not know that Joseph understood them, for there was an interpreter between them. 24 Then he turned away from them and wept. And he returned to them and spoke to them. And he took Simeon from them and bound him before their eyes. 25 And Joseph gave orders to fill their bags with grain, and to replace every man's money in his sack, and to give them provisions for the journey. This was done for them.

- The brothers spoke Hebrew among themselves admitting their guilt for selling Joseph in the past
- Reuben, the oldest brother, reminded them of his warning
- The brothers assumed the man they stood before didn't understand them – but Joseph did

IV. We Become Sensitive To The Danger Of Other Sins (42:26-38)

26 Then they loaded their donkeys with their grain and departed. 27 And as one of them opened his sack to give his donkey fodder at the lodging place, he saw his money in the mouth of his sack. 28 He said to his brothers, "My money has been put back; here it is in the mouth of my sack!" At this their hearts failed them, and they turned trembling to one another, saying, "What is this that God has done to us?"

29 When they came to Jacob their father in the land of Canaan, they told him all that had happened to them, saying, 30 "The man, the lord of the land, spoke roughly to us and took us to be spies of the land. 31 But we said to him, 'We are honest men; we have never been spies. 32 We are twelve brothers, sons of our father. One is no more, and the youngest is this day with our father in the land of Canaan.' 33 Then the man, the lord of the land, said to us, 'By this I shall know that you are honest men: leave one of your brothers with me, and take grain for the famine of your households, and go your way. 34 Bring your youngest brother to me. Then I shall know that you are not spies but honest men, and I will deliver your brother to you, and you shall trade in the land.' "

35 As they emptied their sacks, behold, every man's bundle of money was in his sack. And when they and their father saw their bundles of money, they were afraid. 36 And Jacob their father said to them, "You have bereaved me of my children: Joseph is no more, and Simeon is no more, and now you would take Benjamin. All this has come against me." 37 Then Reuben said to his father, "Kill my two sons if I do not bring him back to you. Put him in my hands, and I will bring him back to you." 38 But he said, "My son shall not go down with you, for his brother is dead, and he is the only one left. If harm should happen to him on the journey that you are to make, you would bring down my gray hairs with sorrow to Sheol."

V. We'll Do The Right Thing When Desperate Because We Trust God Not Sin (43:1-14)

43 Now the famine was severe in the land. 2 And when they had eaten the grain that they had brought from Egypt, their father said to them, "Go again, buy us a little food." 3 But Judah said to him, "The man solemnly warned us, saying, 'You shall not see my face unless your brother is with you.' 4 If you will send our brother with us, we will go down and buy you food. 5 But if you will not send him, we will not go down, for the man said to us, 'You shall not see my face, unless your brother is with you.' " 6 Israel said, "Why did you treat me so badly as to tell the man that you had another brother?" 7 They replied, "The man questioned us carefully about ourselves and our kindred, saying, 'Is your father still alive? Do you have another brother?' What we told him was in answer to these questions. Could we in any way know that he would say, 'Bring your brother down?'" 8 And Judah said to Israel his father, "Send the boy with me, and we will arise and go, that we may live and not die, both we and you and also our little ones. 9 I will be a pledge of his safety. From my hand you shall require him. If I do not bring him back to you and set him before you, then let me bear the blame forever. 10 If we had not delayed, we would now have returned twice."

11 Then their father Israel said to them, "If it must be so, then do this: take some of the choice fruits of the land in your bags, and carry a present down to the man, a little balm and a little honey, gum, myrrh, pistachio nuts, and almonds. 12 Take double the money with you. Carry back with you the money that was returned in the mouth of your sacks. Perhaps it was

an oversight. 13 Take also your brother, and arise, go again to the man. 14 May God Almighty grant you mercy before the man, and may he send back your other brother and Benjamin. And as for me, if I am bereaved of my children, I am bereaved."

VI. We Are Willing To Give Recompense For Our Sin (43:15)

15 So the men took this present, and they took double the money with them, and Benjamin. They arose and went down to Egypt and stood before Joseph.

VII. We Realize There Will Be A Reckoning One Day (43:16-34)

16 When Joseph saw Benjamin with them, he said to the steward of his house, "Bring the men into the house, and slaughter an animal and make ready, for the men are to dine with me at noon." 17 The man did as Joseph told him and brought the men to Joseph's house. 18 And the men were afraid because they were brought to Joseph's house, and they said, "It is because of the money, which was replaced in our sacks the first time, that we are brought in, so that he may assault us and fall upon us to make us servants and seize our donkeys." 19 So they went up to the steward of Joseph's house and spoke with him at the door of the house, 20 and said, "Oh, my lord, we came down the first time to buy food. 21 And when we came to the lodging place we opened our sacks, and there was each man's money in the mouth of his sack, our money in full weight. So we have brought it again with us, 22 and we have brought other money down with us to buy food. We do not know who put our money in our sacks." 23 He replied, "Peace to you, do not be afraid. Your God and the God of your father has put treasure in your sacks for you. I received your money." Then he brought Simeon out to them. 24 And when the man had brought the men into Joseph's house and given them water, and they had washed their feet, and when he had given their donkeys fodder, 25 they prepared the present for Joseph's coming at noon, for they heard that they should eat bread there.

26 When Joseph came home, they brought into the house to him the present that they had with them and bowed down to him to the ground. 27 And he inquired about their welfare and said, "Is your father well, the old man of whom you spoke? Is he still alive?" 28 They said, "Your servant our father is well; he is still alive." And they bowed their heads and prostrated themselves. 29 And he lifted up his eyes and saw his brother Benjamin, his mother's son, and said, "Is this your youngest brother, of whom you spoke to me? God be gracious to you, my son!" 30 Then Joseph hurried out, for his compassion grew warm for his brother, and he sought a place to weep. And he entered his chamber and wept there. 31 Then he washed his face and came out. And controlling himself he said, "Serve the food." 32 They served him by himself, and them by themselves, and the Egyptians who ate with him by themselves, because the Egyptians could not eat with the Hebrews, for that is an abomination to the Egyptians. 33 And they sat before him, the firstborn according to his birthright and the youngest according to his youth. And the men looked at one another in amazement. 34 Portions were taken to them from Joseph's table, but Benjamin's portion was five times as much as any of theirs. And they drank and were merry with him.

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- Thomas Watson: "Bible knowledge without repentance, will be but a torch to light men to hell."

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- Thomas Watson: "Repentance is a grace of God's Spirit, whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and outwardly reformed. Repentance is a spiritual medicine made up of six special ingredients:
 1. Sight of sin
 2. Sorrow for sin
 3. Confession of sin
 4. Shame for sin
 5. Hatred for sin
 6. Turning from sinIf any ingredient is left out, it loses its virtue." (*The Doctrine Of Repentance*)