

**Sermon: Repentance**

**Speaker: Nelson Nyman**

Review last week how David didn't wallow in and beat himself up for the sin God had forgiven him for.

At the end of the book of 2 Samuel,  
David goes into the house of God and offers a prayer.

This morning, we'll look at 3 excerpts from this prayer.

The Lord rewarded me according to my righteousness;  
According to the cleanness of my hands He has recompensed me.  
For I have kept the ways of the Lord,  
And have not wickedly departed from my God.  
2 Samuel 22:21-22

Somehow David got over his sin...

How?

He stole a man's wife, committed adultery with her, then had the man killed.

...according to my righteousness?

**David understood forgiveness and righteousness...**

**I have 7 points about repentance and forgiveness.**

**1. To repent is to be righteous.**

Without repentance, there is no forgiveness and  
without forgiveness, there is no gospel.

We don't work our way to heaven.

John the Baptist made that clear when he rebuked the pharisees.

"But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to where he was baptizing, he said to them: "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? 8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

Bearing Fruit

Matthew 3:7-8

The Pharisees brought sacrifice and burnt offerings instead of repentance.

The Pharisees idolized perfection and thought they had it.

David knew what God was after...

"You do not delight in sacrifice, or I would bring it;

you do not take pleasure in burnt offerings.

My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit;

a broken and contrite heart

you, God, will not despise."

Psalms 51:16-17

What does it mean?, "Produce fruit in keeping with repentance."

A person who repents, bears fruit.

## 2. To repentance is to bear fruit.

Repentance is NOT asking God for forgiveness with the intent to sin again.  
That doesn't bear fruit because it's not repentance.

"Repentance is turning from everything I know of sin  
to everything I know of God."  
And doing everything in my power to make it happen.  
It's a 180 turn from sin.

Example: I struggled with drinking for years. I was an alcoholic. I asked for forgiveness hundreds of times but didn't mean it. I always justified what I was doing saying it wasn't realistic to totally abstain from booze.

"It's the way things are these days." I just can't do it.  
Until I was willing to truly obey Jesus when he says,  
"If your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away..." I couldn't really repent and therefore couldn't be free of the addiction.  
I had to be willing to loose everything I was holding onto, the lifestyle, the friends, the identity... all of it.  
Once I became willing to humble myself, there would be no repentance and no lasting change.

Later in David's prayer, he says simply that God saves the humble.

"You will save the humble people;  
But Your eyes are on the haughty, that You may bring them down."  
2 Samuel 22:28

God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.

Nothing can get rid of pride but allowing God to replace the old with the new.  
That only happens when we come to God and ask him to do it.  
When we lay down our pride and REPENT.

"...no outward instruction, not even of Christ Himself; no argument however convincing; no sense of the beauty of humility, however deep; no personal resolve or effort, however sincere and earnest—can cast out the devil of pride. When Satan casts out Satan, it is only to enter afresh in a mightier, though more hidden power. Nothing can avail but this, that the new nature in its divine humility be revealed in power to take the place of the old, to become as truly our very nature as that ever was.  
Andrew Murray

## 3. The humble repent and are saved.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. 12 I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.' 13 "But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.' 14 "I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."  
Luke 18:9-14

The humble are saved.

"If there is sin in your life, don't just admit it— confess it. Are you willing to obey your Lord and Master, whatever the humiliation to your right to yourself may be? - Oswald Chambers  
Application: Can you say, "I was wrong." without making an excuse right after?

"The Rock of Israel spoke to me:  
'He who rules over men must be just,  
Ruling in the fear of God.'  
2 Samuel 23:3

No matter how great a leader is, he must fear God himself to rule justly.

#### **4. To fear God means ongoing repentance.**

David never got to the point where he was "over it" and sort of "let himself go.

The sense of sacrifice in the Christian life is readily appealing to a new Christian. From a human standpoint, the one thing that attracts us to Jesus Christ is our sense of the heroic, and a close examination of us by our Lord's words suddenly puts this tide of enthusiasm to the test. "...go your way. First be reconciled to your brother..." The "go" of preparation is to allow the Word of God to examine you closely. Your sense of heroic sacrifice is not good enough.  
- Oswald Chambers

To "fear of the Lord" means to have this awareness.

If You, Lord, should mark iniquities,  
O Lord, who could stand?  
But there is forgiveness with You,  
That You may be feared.  
Psalm 130:3-4 KJV

But it's not a fear that leads to despair, it's coupled with trust, and most importantly, love.

Everyone needs to be forgiven..

The one who fears God knows the truth in the verse that says,  
"All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

It's knowing and acknowledging that God has a standard people I have not met.

Not too popular today to say there is right and wrong.

To say there is an absolute standard, to preach repentance then forgiveness...  
but not before.

We can deny this but that doesn't make it any less true...

"A man can no more diminish God's glory by refusing to worship Him than a lunatic can put out the sun by scribbling the word 'darkness' on the walls of his cell."  
— C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain

The Good News is that...

## **5. To repent is to be forgiven.**

And not to repent means not to be forgiven.

Why would a person not be forgiven?  
Is there any sin that cannot be forgiven?

Jesus talked about the unforgivable sin like this:

“And I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.”

Matthew 12:31-32

If you're worried you might have committed the unforgivable sin, you most certainly have not. This concern reveals the right attitude.

Those who have no care about what God wants or thinks commit this sin.

Jesus didn't address these comments to his disciples or a mere crowd.

He was talking specifically to Pharisees who had personally witnessed his miracle of completely and instantly healing a blind and mute demon-possessed man (Matthew 12:22).

Rather than acknowledging the obvious fact that Jesus was exercising divine powers, the Pharisees were so spiritually depraved that they attributed his power to Satan (v. 24).

“Their problem was not blind ignorance, but willful rejection,” pointed out a commentator, Rick Cornish.

“That deliberate refusal to believe, even though knowing the truth, seems to be what Jesus called the unforgivable sin.”

God gives everyone a choice.

Love has to.

Who would want a person to love them who is forced to?

Would that even be love?

## **6. Love makes repentance optional.**

"There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, 'Thy will be done' and those to whom God says, in the end, 'THY will be done.' All that are in Hell choose it. Without that self-choice, there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek, find. To those who knock, it is opened."

- C.S. Lewis, *The Great Divorce*

This is why David was able to say,

For I have kept the ways of the Lord,  
And have not wickedly departed from my God.  
2 Samuel 22:22

He kept the ways of God by coming to God and repenting of his sin.

It's that simple.

The tax collector who said, “God, have mercy on me, a sinner.” and the Thief on the cross who recognized his own sin and asked Jesus for help were justified and saved.

The only difference between Judas and Peter was repentance.

**7. To repent is to receive the love of God.**

If you've never repented, you can do it simply, right now.