

INSIGHT

The sacrifices Israel offered to God were never intended to be a substitute for obedience, as they had become in eighth-century Israel (*Amos 5:22-25*), but were only effective for cleansing if they were brought with a sense of sorrow for sin and complete humility before God, i.e., an attitude of repentance. The idea, then, would be that although Israel brought offerings in the wilderness, they brought more than offerings: they brought repentant hearts, "justice," and "righteousness" (v. 24). The Messiah came also preaching a message of repentance (*Mark 1:15*). Stressing that all men needed to repent (*Luke 13:1-5*), Jesus summoned his followers to turn and become like children. He defined His ministry in terms of calling sinners to repentance (*Luke 5:32*). Moreover, He illustrated His understanding of repentance in the parable of the prodigal who returned to the father (*Luke 15:11-32*). Like John the Baptizer in *Luke 3:8*, Christ insisted that the life that was changed was obvious by the "fruit" that it bore (*Luke 6:20-45*). Those who believe themselves to be God's people and who rely on the sacrifice for sin which God has provided (*Heb. 10:12*) have sometimes assumed that because their sins are dealt with, it does not matter how they live (*Rom. 6:1*). The Bible emphasizes that those who would live in fellowship with a holy God as His people must live in a way which reflects the holiness of God (*1 Pet. 1:16; 1 John 1:5*). "Mercy" (*hesed*, Heb.) is a rich word which includes the idea of faithful love *in action* (*Jer. 9:24*). Walking with God implies a manner of life characterized by gratefulness and obedience to God (*Isa. 38:15*). "Humbly" stresses that man must remember that he is man, and God is God. The proud people will find that God resists them, while the humble person will allow his attitude to be molded by his godly sorrow.

The Attitude in Christ Repentance

Key Text: **Isaiah 1:27-28**

"Zion will be redeemed with justice, And her repentant ones with righteousness. But transgressors and sinners will be crushed together, And those who forsake the LORD shall come to an end."

Theme:

Possessing a penitent attitude is a must when following Jesus. Throughout the history of Israel, God always called her to repent and come back to His ways. Even though we are all sinners, there's a difference between those that are convicted and change and those that are just convicted. The attitude the Lord looks for is one of repentance, not just remorse. It's not enough just to be sorry about what you do, say or think. The Lord looks for a radical change of heart, shown by the deeds that prove your repentance.

Application:

Here are some practical suggestions:

1. **Make it your goal** to be like Jesus in all you do: whether at work, at home, or in dealing with opposition.
2. **Be open to discipline.** Do not defend sin, but rather hate the sin, and love the reproof.
3. **Ask your discipler** to point out areas in your life that need work. Request reproof and correction! And don't give them a hard time when they expose your sin.
4. **Have godly sorrow** about your sin. Don't just "feel" sorry, but be determined to show your change of attitude by a change of action!

May the Lord richly bless you!

SERMON OUTLINE	SMALL GROUP STUDY
<p>Repentance</p> <p>Sacrifices were never meant to substitute obedience to the Lord. But a sacrifice offered up with a broken and contrite spirit is never rejected (<i>Ps 51</i>).</p> <p>I. A Lesson From The David's Life (2 Samuel 11-18)</p> <p>A. Known as the greatest king of Israel</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Background characteristics <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Most prominent character of Scripture b. Most famous ancestor of Christ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Jesus referred to <i>Son of David</i> (<i>Mt.1:1</i>) c. His life was filled with noble deeds d. High aspirations e. Great accomplishments f. Called the man after God's own heart 2. Yet he committed a great sin <p>B. David's Sin</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Setting: David couldn't sleep (<i>11:1-2</i>) 2. He sees a beautiful woman and sleeps with her (<i>11:3-4</i>) 3. Adultery Committed <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The woman is married (adultery) b. She's pregnant (the fruit of adultery) c. Lev. 20:10--the consequence 4. David Hides His Sin <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sends Uriah home, but David's plan fails (<i>11:8-9</i>) b. Gets Uriah drunk, but still David's plan fails (<i>11:12-13</i>) c. David places Uriah in front lines of army: success: Uriah dies! 5. David Becomes Penitent <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. David's Rebuke (<i>12:1-14</i>) b. Sins forgiven but consequences (12,15,18) <p>II. Conclusion Acts 26:20b</p>	<p>Warm-up: Have you ever done something foolish and then regretted it? Were you afraid of facing up to it before other people because of how they may react?</p> <p>See To It Luke 15:11-32</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What attitude did the young man have toward what his father had given him? 2. What do you think caused him to come to his senses? 3. In which verses do you see the change of heart/mind happening? 4. When can we say that this man repented? 5. What was the Father's attitude toward his son? Why do you think he had this attitude? 6. What was his older brother's attitude? Do you think his older brother recognized his repentance? <p>Seeing It Closer:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How does repentance begin? 2. Have you really repented if you go through with the actions but your heart is not in it? 3. How about if you're just sorry about it, but you don't want to change your actions? 4. How come these two approaches don't cut it? <p>Getting To It:</p> <p>Go around the room and take turns sharing with each other how your attitude has changed toward things you were pretty adamant about before. Share how you had a change of heart and how the actions followed after that.</p>