

Repentance

(Mark 1:14-15)

Introduction:

1. This morning we studied a number of statements that were made in connection with the establishment of God's kingdom.
2. In Mark 1:15 Jesus made one such statement -- He said that the kingdom was "*at hand.*"
3. This evening we are concentrating on a command that Jesus gave as He announced that the kingdom would soon be established -- "*repentance.*"

Discussion:

I. JESUS EMPHASIZED REPENTANCE THROUGHOUT HIS MINISTRY

- A. We have seen from Mark 1:15 that Jesus called upon people to repent as He began His ministry.
- B. In Mark 2:17 Jesus said that He came to call "*sinners to repentance.*"
- C. Jesus included repentance in His Great Commission (Luke 24:46-47).

II. WHAT IS REPENTANCE?

A. Repent: "to change the mind"

1. The Bible teaches that God repented on a number of occasions.
 - a. Examples:
 - 1) (1 Samuel 15:11) "*It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king.*"
 - 2) (Jonah 3:10) "*And God repented of the evil, that He had said that He would do unto them; and He did it not.*"
 - b. What did God do when He repented? (He changed His mind)
2. (Luke 15:17) The prodigal son repented "*when he came to himself.*"
3. Repentance is a change of mind; however, . . .

B. The fruit of repentance is a change of life.

1. (Matthew 3:7-8) John said to the Pharisees and Sadducees who came to his baptism, "*Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance.*"
2. (Acts 3:19) Peter said, "*Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out.*"

C. Repentance is much more than being sorry for something we have done -- it is a change of mind that results in a change of life (Matthew 21:28-32).

III. WHO IS REQUIRED TO REPENT?

- A. Everyone (2 Peter 3:9 -- The Lord is "*not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance*").
- B. To be more specific,:

1. non-Christians must repent in order to be saved (Acts 2:38)
 2. Christians must repent when we sin (Acts 8:22).
- C. According to Jesus, everyone who fails to repent will perish (Luke 13:3, 5).
- IV. CERTAIN FACTORS SHOULD MOTIVATE US TO REPENT, INCLUDING:
- A. the goodness of God (Romans 2:4)
 - B. judgment to come (Acts 17:30-31)
 - C. godly sorrow for sin (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Conclusion:

1. We began our lesson by showing how Jesus commanded repentance when He announced that the kingdom of God was near.
2. We have shown from the Scriptures that repentance is a requirement for:
 - a. entering God's kingdom
 - b. remaining in God's kingdom.
3. Repentance is a challenge for some people because it requires humility and submission to God's will.
4. Being aware of sin and admitting sin are also required.
5. Nevertheless, when an individual repents,:
 - a. inner peace can be experienced
 - b. joy is experienced in heaven (Luke 15:10 -- *"Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth"*).