

The Story of Jesus: He Came to Call Sinners to Repentance

(Lesson 87)

Introduction:

1. Growing in the knowledge of Christ is an important responsibility (2 Peter 3:18).
2. Searching the Scriptures is the key to achieving this growth (John 5:39).
3. During His ministry Jesus said that He came to earth to accomplish several objectives.
4. In this lesson we are concentrating on one objective that is revealed in Luke 5:32 -- "He came to call sinners to repentance."

Discussion:

- I. IN CALLING SINNERS TO REPENTANCE, JESUS EMPHASIZED REPENTANCE IN HIS TEACHING
 - A. As Jesus began His ministry He taught that repentance is a requirement for entering God's kingdom (Matthew 4:17).
 - B. In His Great Commission He taught that repentance is a requirement for receiving the "*remission of sins*" (Luke 24:45-47).
- II. IN CALLING SINNERS TO REPENTANCE, JESUS REVEALED SOME IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES THAT RELATE TO REPENTANCE (we are considering four)
 - A. First, in two of His parables Jesus explained what repentance is.
 1. In Matthew 21:28-32 Jesus gave an illustration of repentance as He showed how two sons reacted to their father's instructions.
 - a. One of the sons repented, but the other did not.
 - b. The son who repented actually did his father's will.
 - c. Jesus presented this parable for the benefit of the Jewish leaders.
 2. Jesus further illustrated the meaning of repentance in Luke 15:17-21.
 3. In these parables Jesus explained:
 - a. what repentance is -- a change of mind that results in a change of action
 - b. how belief and godly sorrow produce repentance (2 Corinthians 7:8-10).
 - B. Second, Jesus revealed the fate of those who refuse to repent (Luke 13:1-5).
 1. A common misconception was that the people killed by Pilate and those killed when the tower fell were the ones who needed to repent [Jesus cleared that up in vs.3, 5].
 2. The Lord wants everyone to repent (Acts 17:30; 2 Peter 3:9).
 3. Those who refuse to repent will be punished (Matthew 11:20-24).
 - C. Third, Jesus showed why He requires us to repent (Revelation 3:19).
 - D. Fourth, Jesus showed how repentance produces joy in heaven (Luke 15:7, 10).