

Repent Like David
11-17-13

Our series of lessons revolves around the idea that we can find Spiritual examples of necessary virtues within the persons of the Scriptures. We base this on Philipians 3:17

The Command we examine now is Repentance: "*Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent*" (Acts 17:30)

Repentance is a combination of two things the regret of our sins and the commitment to cease to commit our sins. Without both, it is NOT repentance

We find three types of repentance in Scripture. There is repentant as an act towards Salvation (Acts 2:38). There is repentance as an act by a Christian when we err (I John 1:8-10). Finally, there is also a lifestyle of repentance described in Romans 6:3-6.

The Purpose of Repentance is Forgiveness. This begs a question: Why should God forgive you? Can you even explain why you did it? You knew it was wrong; can you promise that you will NEVER do it again? Such leads us to ask: is it possible God may NOT forgive you? Jesus said there are unforgivable sins (Mark 3:28-29, Hebrews 6:4-6) and that if we do not ourselves forgive, we will not be forgiven (Matthew 6:4-6). Understanding that forgiveness is NOT guaranteed should make us seek to commit ourselves to successful repentance. For that we need an example.

Our example is David. His notable sins include Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11-12) and the numbering of Israel (2 Samuel 24). Both of these sins brought terrible consequences to David. What is remarkable is that his repentance was successful in each occasion.

David's repentance was successful at least in part because of the heartfelt sorrow for sin he expressed. He wrote Psalm 51 in sorrow for his sins; look too at his words in 2 Samuel 24:10-14. What David understood was that repentance is not a mechanical action; it is a matter of the heart (Psalm 51:16-17)

The LORD is near to those who have a broken heart, and saves such as have a contrite spirit. Psalm 34:18

Do you want to be successful in your repentance? Repent like David. First, own your sin. You cannot sell a car that you do not own clear title to; so it is with sin. You need to accept total culpability before presenting it to God. Second, don't take your sins lightly. You may have dodged the bullet of consequences, but your sin was heinous to God. Never forget that the cost of sin is so high that it will cost the blood of the Son of God to remedy the situation. Finally, find sorrow for your error. Express it towards God. Then you have understood what David did.