

aqttoteach.org

THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

Luke 15:18-21
Lesson #3
The Prodigal's Self-talk
5/17/2026

1

Repentance is a process that is framed by **independence** resulting in **suffering** leading to **insight** inspiring **commitment** culminating in **action** bringing us to **peace**.

The bridge between **Insight & Peace** is **Luke 15:18-21**

The Prodigal Son Luke 15

2

3

The Prodigal son's "self talk" (the bridge from insight to peace)

Luke 15

"18 I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men. 20 And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. 21 And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'"

4

Acts 26:20
 "... kept declaring that they should repent and turn to God, performing deeds appropriate to repentance."

Insight is critical

Insight

Plan and action with sincerity, humility, and empathy.

Commitment

Action

Repentance starts from within.

Repentance finishes with action.

but not enough.

HOME COMING / MOVING HOME

5

Repentance can be derailed BEFORE spiritual insight.

2 Corinthians 4:4
 "the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."

2 Corinthians 7:10
 "For the sorrow that is according to the will of God produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world produces death."

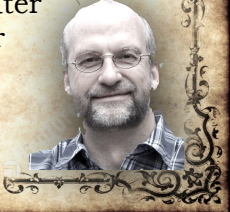
Pain

We manage the pain with "blame" "shame"

We don't see the need to go "home"

6

“American spirituality can be reduced to moralistic, therapeutic, deism . . . that sees the human dilemma as dysfunction more than sin, with Jesus as a life coach that leads us to a better marriage, happier kids, and greater success in our race for the American dream.”

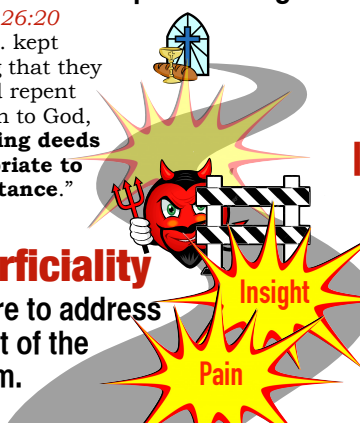


Christian Smith
(Sociologist)

7

Repentance can be derailed **AFTER** spiritual insight.

Acts 26:20
“I . . . kept declaring that they should repent and turn to God, **performing deeds appropriate to repentance.**”



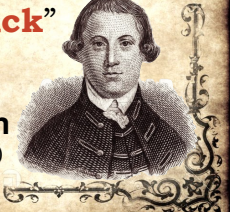
superficiality is failure to address the root of the problem.

Insight without action is the definition of **hypocrisy**.

Repentance is more than confessing our sins. **It is going home.**

8

“Some often repent, yet never reform; they resemble a man traveling in a dangerous path, who frequently starts and stops, (looks back) **but never turns back**”



Bonnell Thornton
(poet, essayist, 1725-1768)

9

Two common mistakes

1. Expecting God to bankroll us in a distant land, **rather than call us out of the distant land.**
2. Assuming that confessing our sins is enough, **rather than changing our spiritual address.**

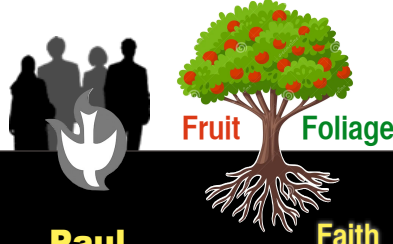


Repentance is both recognition & return

10

That which is of use in saving us “in this life”. **James**

James 2:20
“faith without works is useless”



Fruit **Foliage**

That which justifies “before man”.

That which saves us in “the life to come”. **Paul**

Faith

That which justifies “before God”.

Romans 3:28
“For we hold that one is justified by faith apart from works of the law.”

11

The card is valid only after **YOU activate it (faith).**



The card is useful only as **YOU use it (obey).**

12

“¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.”

“I”

It’s about our RESPONSE, not our circumstances.

“will”

It’s about what we PLAN to do next.

“I have sinned”

It’s about taking RESPONSIBILITY for sin as sin, not about “watering down” the offense.

“against heaven, and in your sight”

It’s about EMPATHY for those who have been offended, (God and others) more than the rules.

13

“¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.”

“I am no longer worthy to be called your son”

It’s about the pain we CAUSED not only the pain we endured.

“make me as one of your hired men”

It’s about a willingness to accept the CONSEQUENCES of our behavior not a demand for grace.

14

“²⁰ And he got up and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him, and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him, and kissed him. ²¹ And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’”

“he got up and came to his father”

It’s not only about WHAT we leave but also about WHERE we go.

“came to his father”

The FOCUS is on the father and home not the distant country.

15

Confessional mistake #1

Minimizing the issue

- “I’m sorry, I slipped up.”

translation

“This is no big deal. It is a minor offense that would not upset normal people.”

- “I could have handled that in a better way.”

translation

“I made a poor choice. This is a style issue not a spiritual / moral issue.”

16

Big mistake #2

Adding insult to injury.

- “I’m sorry IF I offended you.”

translation

“You hypersensitive emotional cripple, if you weren’t so touchy this would not have been a problem.”

- “Let me EXPLAIN what happened.”

translation

“Anyone will excuse me once they see the context, which will remove or at least minimize my culpability.”

17

Big mistake #3

Feeling your pain more than theirs.

- “I feel so embarrassed and ashamed.”

translation

“It’s all about MY image. My public reputation is ruined.”

- “How do you think I feel?”

translation

“MY feelings are the issue. I am not really concerned with how it affected you.”

18

Big mistake #4

Self justification or tit for tat

- “You started this whole thing.”
translation
“I’m sorry I lowered myself to your level. If you don’t like it then don’t start it.”
- “I’m sorry, I’m not perfect.”
translation
“Your expectations are out of line. If you were more gracious and tolerant this would not be an issue.”

19

Big mistake #5

Demanding forbearance or forgiveness.

- “I know you understand.”
translation
“This is no big deal. You can surely absorb this mistake.”
- “Was this a problem for you?”
translation
“I am surprised that you were so easily offended. Gracious people would overlook this.”

20

Are we living in a Distant Land?

Do we take our **baptism** seriously?

- Do we view our place in this world as entitled landowners or **alien ambassadors**?
- Do we **expect God** to bless our lives *IN* and *BY* a distant land?
- Do we **attach ourselves** to the false hopes of a distant land?



What do we petition God for?

21

Romans 12

“1 I urge you therefore, brethren, **by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. 2 And **do not be conformed to this world**, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Repentance includes self sacrifice - leaving some things behind

Not just the pain and disappointments **but also false hopes, expectations, painkillers, dreams, attachments etc.**

Repentance means - changing priorities

- Religious experiences **for deep spiritual maturity.**
- Social reform **for authentic spiritual community.**
- Material riches **for spiritual wealth.**

22

the parable of two rich young rulers



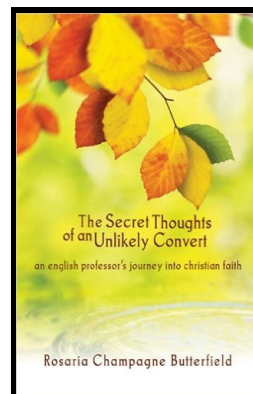
What have we given up?

Jesus had true wealth to give to the rich young ruler

who first had to make room for it.

Luke 18:18-27,
Matthew 19:16-26

23



Dr. Rosaria Champagne Butterfield

“The Scripture clearly asks disciples of Jesus to lose their old life in order to find their new life. I had to ask what have I given up to know him and myself?”

former
lesbian,
feminist,
English
professor



24

