

## THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT

Taught by Carl Jones

Session: June 1, 2012

Thanks, Sig. Good morning everybody.

**Audience Members:** Good morning.

I just wanted to start this off by telling a joke. I might not tell right because I just heard it the other day. There was this lady, this husband and wife. They went to Jerusalem to visit all the ruins and everything. While they were there, the husband, they had not gotten along so well, and they were kind of at odds with one another. But anyway, they were in Jerusalem visiting all the things and enjoying all the artifacts and things of that nature, and truly enjoying seeing the steps of Jesus and everything. About halfway through the trip, he dies. He dies. When he died, the funeral director came up to her and he said, "Well, we can bury him here in Jerusalem for \$150 or we can take him home, we can send him back to the United States, for \$5,000." After some contemplation, she said, "Well why don't we send him back to the United States." He said, "Wait a minute. Excuse me. What did you just say? No, you can bury him here for \$150, but you can send him back to the United States for \$5,000." So finally, she says, "No, I want to fly him home." Finally, the funeral director said, "Well why is it that you want to fly him home?" She said, "Because the last guy that got buried here, over 2,000 years ago, got up three days later, and I'm not going to take that chance." {LAUGHTER}

Let's go before the Lord. Father God, we just bless and we praise you Lord. We thank you for this gracious opportunity to stand with these brave men, my Father God, to not only learn of your Word, but to truly understand your Word. My Father God, we recognize that it's not by power nor by might, but by your Spirit that we live, breathe and have our being. My Father God, as we truly launch into this study, let us, Lord, we ask Holy Spirit, that you teach us. Teach us in all things that we might be better men, that we might be better men of valor, that we might be better husbands, better fathers, better members, better congregants, better friends. My Father God, go before us as only you can. Lead us and guide us in your Word. Guide us into all truth. In the marvelous, matchless, majestic name of Jesus we pray. And all God's men said...Amen!

Amen. This morning, most of you should have the handout by now. We're going to be talking about, if you will, repentance or the fruits of repentance. We start by saying what is repentance? Well, to get the proper picture, it is important to understand that repentance always takes place in relation to someone. Always in relation to God, and sometimes in relation to other people as well.

Repentance is never a private affair. God created us to live in relationships—first with himself and then with others. That is the reason why religions, if you know, and I'm going to say this, religions do not have a personal God of grace with whom they can enjoy a loving relationship. We have the advantage because we have a God who we can go to in prayer. They have no proper place for repentance. Why? Well when you look at Hinduism, they have no proper place for repentance; or Buddhism, because in New Age thinking, because they come into that category, just to name a few, because they don't really recognize or have a personal God of grace that they can turn to in their time of need.

Essentially, repentance is simply a process by which a person who is away from God recognizes that situation and goes back to God. It's basically a U-turn. On your papers, you'll find that I said a bend in the road is not the end of the road, unless you fail to make the turn. Most of us, we're on a road and we're traveling. What you have to recognize is that when you have sinned against God, then you're going to come to a bend in the road. When you come to that bend in the road, that's when the Lord has made you aware of your sin. If you don't turn from it, you're definitely going to go over the cliff.

You've got to recognize that a bend in the road is not the end of the road unless you fail to make the turn.

Instead of going away from God, or ignoring him, you turn around. You go to him and choose to give him his rightful place in your life—repentance—therefore it has more to do with your will than it has to do with your feelings. You may feel deep sorrow about certain things that you regret, or you may not. But the real issue is whether or not you go back to where you belong. Of course, in many cases, sorrow will assist us in this process.

The Greek word translated repent, in the New Testament, has the basic meaning changing one's mind. It was Paul who said, "I beseech you, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable unto God, when is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind." We've got to recognize that unless we change our mind, our heart won't change. If our heart hasn't changed, just because, it's going to be hard for us to have the character of God.

You've got to change your mind and go back to where you got off in order to get back on, because so many times, we say we are living holy, and we say that we live with forgiveness, but we really don't. You can't have forgiveness unless there's repentance. We'll get into that a little bit later.

However, in the Bible, it further teaches us that just changing one's thinking about something, it means changing one's attitude toward that thing. To truly repent you must take, you must take two changes of attitude. First, you've got to have a change of attitude toward God, himself. Amen! And then you've got to have a change of attitude toward the truth. So many men, we don't mind you telling us about something, but just don't tell us the truth. {LAUGHTER}

History records a certain Jean de Labadie, a minister of the reformed church in Southern France, at one time preached 50 sermons in succession on the text, "Repent ye." One of these sermons lasted for 4-1/2 hours. However, today, the church has gone to the opposite extreme and don't talk about it all. As we've heard Dr. Bickel say, he said it a couple of weeks back, and I'm saying it here again today, [UNCLEAR] of this conversation with you, you won't find a revival that says, "Repent. Come back to God." You won't find anybody having a revival that says, "Victory is yours, only if you repent." However, listen, don't put it off because of unpopularity, because of the unpopularity of the subject. What you learn about these Beatitudes, the perseverance that Tom talked about and the repentance that you're hearing today, could be the very turning point in your life. So many times, we get all caught up in where we are that we can't see where we are, and it takes God to bring us out.

Since we have discussed what repentance is, and the meaning, now let's look at the importance of it as it's given in the Bible. The word repent and repentance occurs 56 times in the New Testament. It is similar to the meaning of the word translated convert, or to turn, which is also common. The main theme of the preaching of John the Baptist, who prepared the way for the coming of Jesus was what? Turn to Matthew 3:2. He said, "Repent, for the kingdom of God, or the kingdom of heaven, is near." That's the first occurrence. Then you find the first recorded words of Jesus also that said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near." That's Matthew 4:17.

Jesus declared that the purpose of his coming in ministry was for sinners to be called to repentance. He came to seek and to save that which was lost, and anything lost needs to be found. When he died on the cross, he found us. But the question is, did we turn from our wicked ways. Did we turn from where we were? Have we turned from where we were and now as I've heard Bruce say and you've heard him say on many occasions, when you come to Christ, you come as a sinner to Christ, but then you find a Savior. You start to walk in righteousness. But as you're walking in righteousness, and it's interrupted by

occasional sin. But that doesn't mean you stop there because all of us are going to sin. What we have to recognize is the Bible says that it's given to fall seven times, but to get up again. What we don't realize is the get up again. So many times, we beat ourselves up with guilt. We beat ourselves up and we don't get back on the righteous track. What I'm asking you to do today is recognize that Jesus came to call sinners to repentance. That's Luke 5:32.

When Jesus sent out his disciples to preach, we read that they went out and preached that people should repent (Matthew 6:12). After his resurrection from the dead, he declared that repentance and forgiveness of sins would be preached in the name of all nations. (Luke 24:47). He declared that unless people repented, they would perish. In order to enforce the message, he repeated it again in Luke 13:3, 5. In each of Peter's two recorded sermons after the day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was given, he told people to repent (Acts 2:38, 3:19). In Paul's recorded sermon to the Athenians, he said that God commands all people everywhere to repent.

You've got to understand, brothers, it all starts with us. If you're a husband, you're the head of your household, repentance starts with you. You're the priest in the household. If you look at the family, the family is the expressed example of what heaven really is. The priest in the household is the father in the household. The mother represents the church because the Lord said in his Word in Ephesians, "Love your wives as Christ loves the church." So we've got to recognize that we have a responsibility to bring our families to repentance.

Well, what about repentance? What is repentance then? Repentance is more than being sorry. This is a point that needs clarification. It's common to think of repentance as merely being sorry about things one may have done. A lot of us get, we're sorry about we've done, but do we ever really go in repentance to God? Do we ever really ask God to come back into our life? Do we ask him to forgive us for our sins? Again, before you can ask for forgiveness, you have got to go in repentance. You can't have one without the other. However the word implies a lot more than this.

The Bible gives us a good example of this remorse without repentance. You all remember when Judas had sold out Jesus for 30 pieces of silver? You remember what happened after he realized what he had done? If you remember, he was seized with remorse and he returned the 30 pieces of silver to the chief priest and the elders and said, "I have sinned, for I have betrayed innocent blood." You will note that Judas admitted his guilt, felt sorry about it, and was even prepared to make restitution, at least to some degree, however, subsequent events and other statements in the Bible make it clear that Judas never truly repented. He never truly repented.

The Greek word for seized with remorse used here is translated repented in the old, authorized version, however it is not the usual word for repentance in the New Testament. Seized with remorse is a better translation. Paul's writing to the church in Corinth talks about two kinds of sorrow—godly sorrow brings repentance. Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret. But worldly sorrow brings about death (2 Corinthians 7:10). Sorrow may lead to repentance, or it may not. But they are not the same. Sorrow is concerned about feelings, whereas repentance, as we shall see, involves a change of attitude, particularly to and toward God.

You can have all the odds with your brothers you want. The Bible says how can you love God whom you've never seen and not love your brother whom you see every day. It absolutely amazes me how people can say they have a right relationship with God, but they don't have the right relationship with their brother. And we do it day in and day out. "I don't like him." "Well wait a minute. I thought you had the love of Christ in you?" "Well I do have the love of Christ in me." "No, how can you have the love of Christ...if you're horizontal is not correct, how can your vertical be correct?" It's got to start with repentance.

**Audience Member:** Are you assigning those two together with Judas? [UNCLEAR] he might have been repentant in a sense sorry for what he did, [UNCLEAR] and mad maybe at what he did and then and then wanted to make it right with the Pharisees and the Sadducees that he worked with, but he wasn't in that vertical relationship with God?

He wasn't in the vertical relationship. He realized his sorrows, but he also had a problem because he never had a chance to get it right, with Christ. If you remember, they dragged Christ off from that point on. When they dragged him off, he was beat with a cat o' nine tails, as we know the story.

Jesus will forgive you, but you've got to repent to him. It's got to start with me. It can't start with anybody else. God stands ready to forgive us. I've often said this, if you and Christ are not close, guess who moved. If you and Christ are not close, guess who moved.

As Dr. Bickel has been teaching us on the poor in spirit, which means to be spiritually bankrupt. It also means to have emptied yourself of all desire to exercise personal self-will. So many of us, we say that we have Christ in our hearts, but do we? Do we really? Are you really spiritually bankrupt? Have you really come to a point to where you're truly broken? Have you truly...I'm talking about where you literally have nothing to depend on but God as your source. Been there. Done that. Have a t-shirt and a baseball cap. It's not fun, because you know what? He will take you to a place to where you have no place else to look but to him. He will take you unto a place where you have, when you'll be so down, you have nothing else to do but look up. I'm not telling you from...I'm telling you from experience. I'm not telling you what I think; I'm telling you what I know.

Okay, well, Pastor Jones, what about those things? What about this spiritual bankruptcy? And what about the mournful? Well, Bruce had asked me to teach on repentance because it's going to be a great segue to walking in blessed are the meek. We have to understand that before you can understand the meekness of God, and the meekness of Christ, you've got to first have repentance in your heart. You've got to have made it right with God, and with your brother.

So what are the fruits of repentance? This is going quicker than I thought. {LAUGHTER} What are the fruits of repentance? Number one, the fruits of true biblical repentance will be seen in, as your paper says, in our lives in a real hatred for sin as sin, and not merely for its consequences, but if you stay where you are, it can bring about a separation from God in hell forever. Also, it is not hatred against this or that sin, but it's a hatred for all sin. Say all sin.

**Audience Members:** All sin.

Because you can't just hate some sin; you've got to hate all sin. Amen! You can't just say, "Well it's okay what I'm doing, but you know, Brother Rush has got a problem; Brother Tom's got problems."

**Ted:** He does. {LAUGHTER}

I'm praying for you, Tom. {LAUGHTER} But I'm praying for Ted more. {LAUGHTER} The Bible says judge not and you won't get judged. Okay? I think he said over in Matthew the 7<sup>th</sup> chapter he said, "How can you remove the speck out of your brothers eye when you've got a telegram post in yours?" {LAUGHTER} Amen!

In Ezekiel 14:6, we read these words, "Thursday sayeth the Lord God, repent and turn yourselves from your idols and turn away your faces from all your abominations." We do this with a hatred for them and a loathing of ourselves. This is set forth in Ezekiel 20:43. Turn there with me if you will.

**Dale:** *“43 And there you shall remember your ways and all your doings with which you were defiled; and you shall loathe yourselves in your own sight because of all the evils that you have committed.”*

And then verse 44 says, “And ye shall know that I am the Lord when I have wrought with you for my name's sake,” notice it's not for your sake, it's for his sake, “not according to your wicked ways, nor according to your corrupt doings, O ye house of Israel, saith the Lord God.” In other words, see, you've got to understand he's not doing it for you; he's doing it for himself. The Bible says he said, “Be ye holy for I am holy.” There's nothing sinful that can come near God. In order to get back in relationship with God, you have got to have come to first repentance, before you can ask for forgiveness. Are you with me?

We have to recognize that the change of mind, which God requires, the change of mind which God is pleased with, is a real hatred for sin as sin against God. That's what that Scripture is telling us. It's a real hatred. You hate what God hates. You agree with what God agrees with about who you are. That's the beginning of repentance.

The second piece of fruit that we can grab from this, the fruit of true biblical repentance will be seen in a deep sorrow for sin. 2 Corinthians 7:9-10—I just read it earlier—you sorrow to repentance, for you were made sorry after a godly manner, for godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation. And such a sorrow is produced in the heart by the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit is truly guiding us into all truth, brothers, then we are allowing our hearts to be pliable to him that he might bring us to a point of repentance where we recognize the shame that we've caused God to have.

So many of us don't recognize the shame that we bring to God. See it's not what we do in the daylight. It's what we're doing in the dark. It's not what we're doing in the daylight; it's what we do in the dark. Look at what it says. It says a deep sorrow—a deep sorrow for sin—which, if you'll notice, has God for its object, for it consists of grief for having despised such a God, for having rebelled against his authority, and for having been indifferent to his glory. If we truly love God and we say we do, if we truly love God, and we do, if we truly are worshiping God, and we do, then there ought to be something in us that causes us to turn away from where we were and get back to where we were supposed to be. No matter what, it ought to take us back to where we're supposed to be.

We are made to cry just like David. You all remember in Psalm 51? Remember when David had sinned with Bathsheba and Nathan came in to see David, and he said, “David, what would you do with this wee lamb?” and David said, “We ought to kill the man,” and Nathan said, “You the man.” David was ready to kill him until he realized he was the one.

**Audience Member:** *You bring up a good point. [UNCLEAR] mentioned about Ravi Zacharias earlier, one of the things I heard him say was that throughout history, whenever civilization went down, it wasn't the sin in and of itself that took the nation down, but it was the absence of shame. What happens, even with us, is that through the things that we see in this world, and us getting further away from God's Word, we start to rationalize actually what sin is and what is not, and then the shame disappears. And then it's hard to repent when you forget that what you're doing is wrong because you start looking at what's common instead of what is pleasing to God.*

What brother Mike is...and thank you, Mike, because that is a very good point...because what we do is we go find a brother who's going to agree with us in our stuff. And then we start to justify while we are where we are. You've got to recognize that over in Amos, the Lord said, “Behold, I lay for you a plumb line in Zion,” and I have a plumb line in my hand. Your measurement is not Me. Don't measure yourself against me. Don't measure yourself against Michael. Don't measure yourself against Dick. Don't

measure yourself against Ted or Tom. You need to measure yourself against God. When you measure yourself against Jesus, then you're going to see your shortcomings. You're going to see the sinful nature. You're going to see the unworthiness.

**Audience Member:** *Can there be repentance without restitution?*

Can there be repentance without restitution? Can there be a repentance without restitution?

**Audience Member:** *Yes...but Christ.*

Okay. Amen. Amen. Anybody else want to help him with that?

**Ted:** *Alright, just say, if you don't have, of course, through Christ, you can have repentance without restitution, but social consequences of no restitution are huge.*

Amen. Amen. When you look at them on the horizontal, the consequences, as Ted just said, are huge. You can say, "But Christ," and that kind of...yeah, that takes care of it, but at the same time, you still gotta look your brother in the eye.

**Audience Member:** *Christ gave us the model. If you go to your brother and you sinned against him, like Bruce says if you know you go, if I've sinned against my brother, or he sinned against me, and he doesn't welcome or accept my offer of forgiveness, nor does he repent of what I think he did to harm me, then I go and I bring somebody else with me. There's a process.*

Absolutely. There is a process. He said, "Give and it shall be..." what? "Given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, shall men pour into your bosom." They weren't talking about money; they were talking about mercy. What does Galatians 6:1 tell us? He said, "When you find your brother in a fault, you who are spiritual, restore such a one. With meekness, least you also be tempted." Our job is not to look down on somebody; our job is to make sure we pick them up.

**Audience Member:** *We can forgive, but can we ever really trust again?*

We can forgive, but can we ever really...

**Audience Member:** *For what you have done to me? Whether you've taken my, whatever it is, but can I really trust you ever again? Is there forgiveness without trust?*

**Ted:** *I have a good friend who I love very much. He's a brother in Christ. He cheated on his wife. I'm also very close to the wife as well. I later spoke to the wife a year or two after the event to kind of get her thoughts and feelings about it because she was very much with him and reconciled with him. I said, "How is it possible for you to have let this, be able to continue on?" She said, "It's been difficult, but you know, God has given me a supernatural love for my husband." I could see that in the way she lived. She was not push...she was not trying to make herself feel this way. She just felt it. God, it was a gift from God. Now I wish that happened more often for the sins I've done against people, that they would have a supernatural love for me.*

We do, Ted.

**Ted:** *Quit trying. I think that's only possible supernaturally.*

That's only possible through the Holy Spirit. I can't be your Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has to be the

Holy Spirit in your life, as you are growing, as you go to him in prayer, he will guide you into those things, and he will bring that trust back. If that trust is meant to be rebridged, it will be rebridged, but it will be rebridged because he is in your life, and he is in the other person's life.

**Audience Member:** *The one thing, I don't want to take anybody off the subject, but I was watching the news and I heard what John Edwards said; I was really proud that he said that he's responsible for his sins, and he and he alone. He also said that, this morning I heard that he said that he felt that God still had a purpose for him. But I think that that was a good example to our country, that he stood up and said that.*

With that being said, the thing we have to recognize is, just as David said, he said, "I acknowledge my transgressions. My sin is ever before me. Against thee, and against thee only, have I sinned." You have to recognize that when you sin against God, when you sin against God, you've got to be prepared, okay, to go to him...and that's the reason why...it's so interesting because David was a man after God's own heart. A lot of us go, how could that possibly be when we see how he caroused and we see to the point to where David, he slept with a whole bunch of women, but he was a man after God's own heart. Because why? He knew the gift of repentance. He knew how to go to God in prayer.

Now that doesn't give you a get out of jail free card. Let me just say that right now. I want to say that on the mic, no you don't get a get out of jail free card. So many of us go, "Oh, well David did it, I guess I can just keep going..." No. No. Once you know better, you ought to do better. Once you learn better, you ought to do better.

**Ted:** *Carl, but if you don't do better, does that mean the repentance wasn't real?*

No, it doesn't mean that the repentance wasn't real. Not at all. It doesn't mean that the repentance was real. It just means that you've got some work to do.

**Audience Member:** *You mentioned about going back. I've read a lot of authors....C. S. Lewis talks a lot about this...it's kind of like tree with all these different limbs. We get off way back here. We keep making these wrong turns, and we find ourselves, [UNCLEAR], we have to go back to where we got off track...*

To get back on.

**Audience Member:** *...the problem I've seen in my life is when I don't admit it's sin. Total agreement with God's word. I don't decide [UNCLEAR] on that, what sin is. God decides [UNCLEAR]. It has to be in complete agreement with God. Wasn't Jesus saying that when he said you call me Lord, but you don't do...*

The things I say. What my brother is saying is that, listen, he's going right to the third point, which says that we are to confess our sins. We're to confess our sins. We read in Proverbs 28:13 that he that covereth his sins shall not prosper, but whosoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy. Yes, there must be the fruit of confession of sin. Confessing all and hiding nothing. You see, you and I both know that it's our nature to deny sins—directly or indirectly. We try to deflect it. To minimize it. To make excuses. But when the Holy Spirit works in our souls, and our sins are brought to light, there must be an acknowledging before God. You have to recognize what is confessing. Confessing is agreeing with God what I'm going through and what I've done. Its agreeing with God that I've wronged him. What does 1 John 1:9 say? If you confess your sins, he is what? He's faithful and just. But watch this. What happens first? Repentance. Confession. You've got to confess them first. God stands ready to forgive us for all of our sins. But if you never confess them or come into agreement with him, the I got off the road Lord, that I didn't do it the right way, that I've wronged my sister, that I've wronged my

brother, that I did them wrong, I can't trust him anymore, I don't understand how...you've got to first come to repentance with God.

**Audience Member:** *And what you're saying, a lot of times, we end up like Adam and Eve. We run and hide in the midst. And then we don't really believe that God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. We'll say it, and then we'll hold onto it, like we were the ones who are going to be the forgiver, we don't [UNCLEAR] with us.*

Amen.

**Audience Member:** *We keep, we hold...but he is faithful and he is just.*

Aren't you all glad that so many men aren't God. {LAUGHTER} There are some men, if they were God, some of us wouldn't be here. {LAUGHTER} Am I right? I mean, because there are some folk we don't like just because we don't like 'em, Dick. It has nothing to do with anything else. That person, you might have rolled up...and so many times, we look at situations and they are not what they appear, but we judge 'em anyway.

Which brings me to my fourth point. The fruit of true biblical repentance is seen in actual turning away from sin. My friends, there are three Greek words used in the New Testament which represent different phases of repentance. All three of them are seen in the life one who has actually turned to God from sin in true repentance. The first one is in Matthew 3:2, where we find he said, "Repent for the kingdom of God is at hand." But notice, that repent means a change of mind about sin. In Matthew 21:29, the word repent means change of heart about sin.

**Ted:** *What is that verse please?*

Matthew 21...let's turn there...Matthew 21:29. Remember the parable of the two sons? "He answered and said I will not: but afterward he repented, and went." He had a change of heart. He had a change of heart. First, he was not going anywhere, but then he had a change of heart.

Matthew 3:8 and also Acts 20:21, it means a change of life, an actual turning away from sin, to walk in it no more. Let's turn to Acts 20:21. This was Paul's full message when he said, "<sup>21</sup>Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>22</sup>And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there." In other words, I'm not afraid because I've had a change of life and I know who holds my life. So now that I've got a change of mind, and I've got a change of heart, my life has turned around, so I'm going to walk away from what I was doing and walk in what I'm supposed to be doing, and that's living a life for Christ.

So we can say true repentance is a radical change of mind and heart that leads to a complete turnabout in our lives. It brings about the repenting believing sinner, a change of mind which is the understanding, a change of heart, which is the affections, and a change in the course of our life which comes about in our wills. See until we surrender our wills to God, do we really walk in true repentance? There's only one throne, and either you're sitting on it or God is sitting on it. The Bible says no man can serve two masters. You're either serving yourself or you're serving God.

Let's turn to one other Scripture. Let's turn to Isaiah 55:7, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon." This is the change of course which God requires. It will show itself in repenting. Believing sinner and the repenting or believing sinner taking heed to the Word



of God which said flee fornication (1 Corinthians 6:18). Flee idolatry (1 Corinthians 10:14). Flee the love of money (2 Timothy 6:10-11). Flee also your youthful lusts (2 Timothy 2:22). It will also show itself in putting into practice the positive graces of following after righteousness, faith, love, joy, peace, with them that call on the name of the Lord.

Let me just say this. We need to understand something. As with life, as we get older, things change, don't they? Why is it that so many men...do you ever wonder why so many men chase after young girls? Because they're trying...

**Ted:** [UNCLEAR]...

Yeah, well...I'm sorry, Ted, I wonder about those things because I see guys do that kind of stuff and I'm going, "Why are you doing that?" The answer is obvious, right? But the thing is, they're trying to make themselves feel youthful again. But here's the point. Chasing after them young ladies like that, first off, you're turning from God. Secondly, it's just like a dog chasing a bus. {LAUGHTER} Because once he catches it, what is he going to do with it? {LAUGHTER} Come back to God. That's where you need to be. {LAUGHTER} Enjoy the wife of your youthful lusts.

**Ted:** *And of course, Carl, it seemed like a good idea at the time.* {LAUGHTER}

That's right. That's right. Let's hurry on to the fifth one because it's time to go. The fifth one basically says desire to put into practice the Scriptures that teach us to walk in righteousness and true holiness. Listen brothers, this, to me, is one of the most distinguishing marks of true biblical repentance. The desire to walk in a different way, a different course of life, than I did before. We read in Hebrews 12:14—write that down—"Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." So by God's grace, we desire to follow after this peace and holiness because God has given us a new heart and a new nature. In Matthew 1:21, we read that Christ came to save his people from their sin, not in their sin. The heart of the true penitent cries unto God daily to be delivered from sin and self because he hates them.

Brothers, the best thing we can do as 2 Timothy tell us is to turn, depart from iniquity. The one thing we have to recognize is that Christ nailed our sin to the cross. You know that, right? He nailed our sin to the cross. What we do is we operate in iniquity. What I need us to do is depart from iniquity. Say that with me.

**Audience Members:** *Depart from iniquity.*

We've got to make sure that we walk away from where we were, and start walking the way God has told us to walk. That doesn't mean that we're going to sometimes be interrupted by occasional sin. But what it means is to get back up, get back on track, get back on where you got off, and make sure that you continue to repent, ask God for forgiveness and watch this, and when you confess your sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us of our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

**Audience Member:** *Keep going.*

The one thing we have to recognize is this, is that we have to have a real faith in Christ. We have to have a real faith in the person and finished work of Christ. True biblical repentance cannot be separated from the true saving faith. The two go together. He who truly repents will truly believe, for the same Holy Spirit who gives us repentance to the acknowledging of our sinful conduct before God, gives us such a desire to confess it and forsake it with a true godly sorrow, it will always turn our eyes to a loving God who died on the cross for me when I was totally unworthy and we have to recognize if I repent, and

when I repent, because you can't say if...if is saying I don't think I did it. {LAUGHTER} When I have sinned against God, my job is to come to him in repentance, agree with him in prayer with what he is saying that I have done, and then allow God to fix our heart and lead us on into righteousness. Is it alright? God bless you brothers. Amen! That's a few things that I can give you on repentance. I pray this was able to give you some insight into where we should go.

**Audience Member:** Thank you. [AUDIENCE APPLAUSE]

I want you to recognize that, you know what, we have to truly have a heart of repentance. We have to recognize that the God we serve, he's a just God. And he's a holy God.

**Audience Member:** Carl, I think we should look at Acts 11:18 because this is when the Gentiles came to know Christ the first time in the church, and it says when they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God saying well then God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life. Appears to me it's saying repentance is a gift of God.

Amen! It is. But you have to also recognize that the Jews did not want the Gentiles in the place. They didn't want them to have anything. As a matter of fact, they didn't want them to be a part. Paul was the one who came in and said, "Listen, they're going to be part because God said they're supposed to be a part." Jesus came to seek and to save all who were lost, not some who were lost. He came to save us all. In him coming to save us all, you're absolutely right, that they brought them to a state of repentance and it is a gift. It's the gift that God gives us.

**Audience Member:** What will I find with this going through the [UNCLEAR]...

Well, we all like Burger King, but we can't have it our way. {LAUGHTER} I only know to follow the Word of God. True enough, he takes all of us on a different path. But as the path he has you on, you need to follow. When God brings you to that point and that crossroads where you are to repent, if you don't repent privately, he will expose it publicly.

**Audience Member:** Can you say that again?

If you don't repent privately, God will expose your sin publicly. Now he's faithful and just. He wants to forgive us in secret. He said when you come to him, you come to him in secret, okay, and confess. But so many times, what happens is...and I'm going to use Ted's friend just for a second, the friend that was sinning and having an affair on his wife...he's privately having this affair. It started out in the dark, in the corner in the back, and he kept on having that affair. What happens is, if you don't confess it and walk away from it, God will expose it. The Bible says your sins will surely find you.

**Audience Member:** Carl, it was a great message, and pragmatically, because I like to do a lot of work. What I see, what we're talking about here, and this is how I relate it, is we have a closet, a garage or a shed that's full of junk. That's us. We keep telling our wives, ourselves, "Yeah, I'm going to get to it...eventually." Well eventually is now. Number one, know it, and purpose in your heart, get out there and clean out the junk, throw it away, clean it up, fix it up, and put everything in its place. Because we have a purpose, and God determines it. And my closet, my shed, and my garage [UNCLEAR], but it has a purpose. When we look at things, and as Brother Mike said, we look at [UNCLEAR], we justify because we become desensitized to what is important, and the important comes from God alone, through Jesus Christ entrusting us by the Holy Spirit constantly, and so pragmatically, I see this in my daily life. I have to because I did it the wrong way [UNCLEAR].

He tells us in Galatians that we have to recognize that we have to crucify our flesh daily. We've got to

crucify this flesh daily. You've got to keep your body under subjection, because before you know it, you're looking at something you shouldn't have been looking at or you're doing something that you shouldn't have been doing, and then you're wondering who's seen it and now you're wondering who saw me doing this, and now you come to guilt, and then you turn, as Brother Mike I believe said earlier, then we start trying to justify it and trying to put it and find somebody that can justify it with us.

Guys, this is such a vast subject. This is not something that you should teach in an hour, but I praise God that he's allowed me this hour to be before you brothers. Thank you so much. I appreciate it.

[AUDIENCE APPLAUSE]

Let us go before the Lord in prayer before we leave. Father God, we bless you and we thank you Lord for what our eyes have seen and our ears have heard. We thank you for the comments that have been made and the teaching that has come forth. We ask right now my Father God, that you'd let it be resident in our hearts, that my Father God, that we might walk with a heart of repentance Lord, always recognizing, my Father God, that we're spiritually bankrupt, my Father God, that Lord we need you as our source, as our total source, my Father God. Please be our refuge and our very present help in time of trouble. Lord, we love you today and we praise you and we thank you. Now go before us, my Father God. Be with Bruce, my Father God, as he's traveling in Turkey. Be with Bruce Cote as he's on his walk, my Father God. Be with all of those who are sick and shut in, my Father God, and let's us continue to pray for them, Lord, for prayer, the prayers of the righteous truly availeth much. My Father God, we want to come into agreement with what you are doing. My Father God, we're asking you to bless, we want you to bless, Lord, what we're doing in your life, and what you're doing in our lives. We don't want you to bless what we're doing with our selfish selves. Lord, we love you in Jesus' name. Amen! God bless you brothers!