



Sermon Notes: Real Repentance

1. The character of repentance.

a. What repentance is.

- 1) Repentance is the reorientation of your mind.
- 2) Repentance is the renovation of your life.

b. What repentance is not.

- 1) Repentance is not punishment avoidance.
- 2) Repentance is not penance.
- 3) Repentance is not presumption or privilege.
- 4) Repentance is not putting down the truth.

2. The corresponding actions of repentance.

a. Generosity.

b. Integrity/Honesty.

c. Contentment.

3. The consequence of repentance.

- a. The consequence of repentance is God's forgiveness.
- b. The consequence of rebellion is God's judgment.



Application Questions: Real Repentance

1. If you could have dinner with anyone in history, past or present, who would it be? Why him or her? What would you do to get yourself ready to meet him or her?
2. What is your initial gut reaction to John the Baptist's words, especially Luke 3:7-14 and 3:17? How would you describe the tone of this message? And how does that make you feel?
3. What's the problem with concluding John was out of line by saying "not-nice things that were offensive" to people? [See Luke 3:2, 3:18, and 7:28.]
4. Is repentance a response to grace, a catalyst for grace, or something else? Explain.
5. Pick a sin – any sin – and describe what a reorientation of the mind would look like concerning this thing. What thoughts/attitudes/desires led to this sin in the first place? What would Christlike thoughts/attitudes/desires look like under the same circumstances?
6. Give some examples of things in people's lives that could act like...
 - mountains that need to be leveled.
 - valleys that need to be filled.
 - crooked things that need to be made straight.
 - rough places that need to be made smooth.
7. Of the things we commonly substitute for real repentance, which are you most guilty of? Why do you think you do this? What would it look like for you to practice genuine repentance?
8. Why do you think all of John's illustrations of "fruits of repentance" relate to money? What is it about money that reveals the genuineness of a changed life?
9. What one thing do you know you need to do in response to this message? Specifically and concretely, how will you know if you're doing this? How will others know?