

# **THE REALITY OF REPENTANCE**

## **Luke 3:1-14**

**When John the Baptist preached, he provided clear instructions about the reality of repentance.**

### **I. A CHANGE OF IDENTITY** (3)

#### **A. THE CONFRONTATION: Radical information**

1. A radical preacher with a radical message - Mark 1:4-6
2. The message is one of repentance .... change!

#### **B. THE CONFESSION: Radical implications**

1. I am a sinner and not a saint
2. I am guilty and not “good enough”
3. I am unforgiven and my sin stain remains

#### **C. THE CONDITIONS: Radical expectations**

1. A public acknowledgment
  - Identifying with those who are unclean or filthy
2. A humble association
  - I am not special!

### **II. A CHANGE OF STATUS QUO** (4-6)

- Quotation from Isaiah 40:3-5

#### **A. THEY MUST RECOGNIZE THEY WERE NOT READY** (4-5)

- Something undone needed to be addressed

#### **B. THEY HAD TO REALIZE THAT GOD’S SALVATION WAS FOR ALL** (6)

- Jesus the Messiah is not their private road to a private Jewish salvation
- See Luke 2:30-32

### III. A CHANGE OF ATTITUDE (7-9)

#### A. THEIR PRESCRIPTION (8)

- “Bear fruits in keeping with repentance”

#### B. THE PROBLEMS (8b)

1. People resist change
2. The Jews were a people relying on their religious heritage
3. We tend toward group deception

#### C. THE PERIL (9)

1. They are facing imminent judgment (9)
  - Without good fruit a tree is destined for the fire
2. They are a group of snakes and not saints! (7)
3. Contentment: These harsh words were given to move them from their sense of complacency.

### IV. A CHANGE OF CONDUCT (10-14)

#### A. BE SUBMISSIVE (10)

1. Ask the right question: What does God want us to do?
2. What God wants is for us to turn from sin (repent) and turn to Him (faith) - See I Thess. 1:9
3. Understand what God doesn't want.
  - See for example Deut. 10:12, Psalm 51:16-17 and Micah 6:8

#### B. BE DIFFERENT (11-14)

1. The Practice: Provide clear and practical indications of change
2. The Particulars:
  - a. For the person with provisions – Be generous (11)
  - b. For the publican who typically practices extortion - Be fair (12-13)
  - c. For the private with authority - Be gentle (14)
3. The Principle: Conduct changes when people truly repent

### CONCLUSION:

*Real repentance requires change*

**Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.* - II Cor. 5:17**

*What's it like with you, have you experienced real repentance?*