

True Repentance

The Lost Path, The Biblical Way

Matt 4:3-4:25

Q: Repentance? Why is this the message?

It's the only way to come to God. The light has come, the kingdom has come and you are in the darkness. God's first call and all his prescribed methods have always called for a turn from what the person was doing to what God had called them to. You have to turn from the world. You have to leave the darkness.

Q: Why is it so weak in the church since it is the only biblical call? Why do we see so few examples of full repentance, a turning away from the old life, from the world in the church?

Vs 18-22

Q: How can we relate to the disciples?

In most ways the disciples were regular men, called by God. Their lives made a quick dramatic turn this day. This is the way the Christian life is meant to be like. We should all be able to point backward to what we've left behind. Apparently, being a fisherman wasn't a "low" job in society but was actually fairly profitable considering their economy. James and John leaving their father was a big deal culturally. The family business was something you wouldn't normally leave. What did they even leave for? They left something they could have spent their whole life on for the unknown and this man.

Q: "Fish for men" What's the meaning of this analogy and in what ways does the analogy fit?

Men are "free" living where they've been all their life. Aimless, wandering amongst all the rest. They cannot escape but by an outside force. They will always be in the water if it's left to them. Under normal circumstances they may occasionally leap out to become free from the water for a moment but they'll fall back again. "Like stones under rushing water, you only know when it's gone" they won't know what it's like to leave the water until they have. They are pulled out of the mass into a new life. They have to be caught. Those fishing deliberately cast the net. They cast over and over again. Persistence and listening to God provides the greatest catch. The Spirit is the power that saves any and everyone from the life they were otherwise going to live. For the one "fishing" timing does matter. It's a job. It was their life and livelihood. It is meant to be ours.

Q: Jesus said in Luke 14:33 Unless you leave all you have you cannot be His disciple. Can we identify with them? Why not?

The answer should be yes, undoubtedly. No true Christian should be far from this type of call on their life, though they may feel it more or less. Those who hold on to more are weaker in the way. The more we hold back the farther we can feel, when we are truly in Him. Sometimes those who are deceived feel closest because of false security. The true Christian hungers and thirsts for more and the desire is real, driving and signifies want when in famine. For some reason, a response like Peter, Andrew, James and John's is out of the ordinary today though biblically it is the only way. This is one of the greatest travesties of our time and greatest weaknesses in the church.