

DAY 14 - RECONCILIATION

30 Days of Repentance & Heart Preparation | Make Room for God's Heart
Scripture Study - New International Version (NIV)

Theme

Reconciliation is more than the removal of guilt. Through Jesus Christ, God makes peace, restores relationship, gives us a new identity, and calls us to carry His message to others.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

- 17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!
18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation:
19 that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation.
20 We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God.
21 God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Study observation: God is the initiator: the new creation and reconciliation are His work. The reconciled become ambassadors, entrusted with a message that reflects the heart of the One who sent them.

Romans 5:6-11

- 6 You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.
7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die.
8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God's wrath through him!
10 For if, while we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!
11 Not only is this so, but we also boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Study observation: God did not wait for us to become worthy. Paul roots our assurance in what Christ has already done and in His living presence, not in our ability to earn acceptance.

Colossians 1:19-23

- 19 For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him,
20 and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross.
21 Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior.
22 But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation—

23 if you continue in your faith, established and firm, and do not move from the hope held out in the gospel. This is the gospel that you heard and that has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven, and of which I, Paul, have become a servant.

Study observation: The cross makes peace where there was alienation. The passage also calls believers to remain grounded in the hope of the gospel rather than drift away from it.

Luke 15:17-24

17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death!

18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you.

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’

20 So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate.

24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

Study observation: The son acknowledges his sin and returns. The father responds with compassion and a public welcome. The story portrays restoration as a return to belonging, not merely an escape from punishment.

Connections Across the Passages

Initiative: God acts first to make reconciliation possible (Romans 5; 2 Corinthians 5).

Peace: Reconciliation is accomplished through Christ, not by overlooking the seriousness of sin (Colossians 1).

Return: Repentance involves turning toward the Father and receiving His welcome (Luke 15).

Identity and mission: The reconciled are made new and called to represent Christ (2 Corinthians 5).

Reflect

- What does reconciliation with God mean to me personally, beyond simply being forgiven?
- Where am I still approaching God as though I must earn the right to come home?
- What would change if I lived more fully as someone welcomed and made new?
- How can I represent the Father’s compassion while still telling the truth about repentance?
- What am I making room for in today’s fast, and what is becoming clearer in that space?

Closing Thought

The invitation is not to pretend the separation never mattered. It is to receive the peace Christ has made possible and learn to live in restored relationship with God.

Scripture: NIV, supplied for this study. Footnote markers omitted for readability.