

INTRO:

- 1) Jer 1 – God’s call on us. How to enter God’s HORDE.
- 2) Jer 2 – What it look like when we have FLED from God.
- 3) That leads us to today
- 4) Vs 6-11

a. A much loved-minister of God once carried a secret burden of long- past sin deep in his heart. He had committed the sin many years before, during his Bible school training. No one knew what he had done, but they did know he had repented. Even so, he had suffered years of remorse over the incident without any sense of God's forgiveness.

A woman in his church deeply loved God and claimed to have visions in which Jesus Christ spoke to her. The minister, skeptical of her claims, asked her, "The next time you speak to the Lord, would you please ask Him what sin your minister committed while he was in Bible school." The woman kindly agreed.

When she came to the church a few days later the minister asked, "Did He visit you?" She said, "Yes."

"And did you ask Him what sin I committed?"

"Yes, I asked Him," she replied

"Well, what did He say?"

"He said, 'I don't remember.'"

b. Today we look at Acknowledging & Repenting of sin.

i. Acknowledge: same as confession; greek homologos

c. The Text: Judah had every opportunity to learn from Israel’s rejection of God.

d. But learn what from Israel? Learn what it means to acknowledge and repent of their sins.

e. **Let God give us 3 good reasons to acknowledge and repent of our sin today.**

## Why acknowledge and repent?

### 1) Vs 12-14

a. **The 1<sup>st</sup> reason is b/c acknowledgment and repentance allows us to be redeemed by our loving, merciful God.**

- i. Read Rom 10:9-10
- ii. You see, God's not just asking us to turn away from fleshly desires, He's asking us to turn TOWARD Him!
- iii. Prov 28:13 – He that covereth his sins shall not prosper but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy!
- iv. If we see His redemption of us as a wonderful opportunity to worship Him in appreciation, then leaving our sin behind will be that much easier.
- v. With each temptation; we can deny Him and sin or we can confess Him and ....then He will confess us before the Father!

### 2) Vs 15-17

a. **The 2<sup>nd</sup> reason to acknowledge and repent of our sin is b/c acknowledgment and repentance allows us to rest and be rejuvenated in God's pasture learning of Him.**

- i. The guilt of sin leaves us restless and tired, doesn't it?
  1. Read Psm 32:3-4
  2. Know the FREEDOM of admitting you're not perfect and turning to face God (and others) on that particular issue.
- ii. The rejuvenation that comes with acknowledgement and repentance is a truly miraculous experience!
  1. The Psalmist put it this way (Read Psm 23:1-3)
    - a. Restore: Literally to turn back to the starting point!

2. In the end of *Les Miserable*; Jean ValJean can walk away seeing creation in a whole new exciting way!
- iii. When we're seeing life in a whole new way, this opens us up to hearing from God's Word with a deep rich experience!

### 3) Vs 18-19

a. **The 3<sup>rd</sup> reason to acknowledge and repent of our sin is b/c acknowledgment and repentance allows us to reconcile relationships & restore our lives.**

- i. Israel and Judah will come back together. (vs 18)
  1. Read Eze 37:15-22
  2. Parties are reconciled as they each get closer to God.
    - a. One king shall rule them.
  3. You want to come together with your enemy? The humility of confession will stop us from speaking evil of others.
    - a. Read Jam 4:10-11
  4. If both you and your antagonist are coming into agreement with God (the triangle) then you're no longer in opposition to each other, are you?
- ii. Not just reconcile but also restoration.
  1. Vs 19 – Call my “My Father” – This is an even greater position than they've ever had.
  2. Read Joel 2:25
    - a. I thought that I lost the chance to have a godly family...God restored.
    - b. Moses killed the Egyptian and fled, he thought he lost his chance to serve the Lord...God restored.

How can we know if we've truly repented?

- 1) Well, are we experiencing the 3 attitudes we've already talked about?
  - a. Are we falling into a deeper relationship with our REDEEMER?
  - b. Are we experiencing REST and REJUVENATION as we grow in God's Word?
  - c. Have you be RECONCILED with any believers lately after a major disagreement? How about a minor one?

2) **Here are 4 characteristics of what acknowledgment and repentance looks like?**

3) Vs 20-21

a. **The 1<sup>st</sup> characteristic that shows true acknowledgement and repentance is Emotion.**

i. Read II Cor 7:8-11

1. Don't confuse the emotion that's part of remorse with emotion that is part of true confession.

a. Judas vs Peter

ii. Read Psm 51:7-12 AND Psm 51:17

iii. Different types of emotional reactions.

1. Weepy

2. Loud/quiet

iv. Read Neh 9:1-5

v. Read Luke 15:7

1. Sinner getting saved...no.

2. Great joy not just for the one repenting but also in heaven!!

#### 4) Vs 22-23

a. **The 2<sup>nd</sup> characteristic that shows true acknowledgement and repentance is Activity.**

- i. There has to be a leaving of sin and a cleaving to God...both!
  1. Can't leave sin but not cleave to God: Imagine repenting of Mormonism and the Book of Mormon but never being renewed in the Word of God!
  2. Can't try to cleave to God without leaving sin: Imagine trying to repent of selfishness by starting to give money to the church but you're still giving money to the strip clubs or partying and fancy clothes.
- ii. Habits get broken and new habits begin fresh.
- iii. Read Luk 19:1-9
  1. He repented of selfishness and cheating with his money and turned to giving and truthfulness with it!
- iv. Pornography experts will tell you the #1 & #2 reasons an addict returns to this sin is not replacing it with good habits and not cutting off the source of it.
  1. Sounds a little bit like the Biblical concept of acknowledging and repenting!!!

#### 5) Vs 24 – Chap 4:2

a. **The 3<sup>rd</sup> characteristic that shows true acknowledgement and repentance is simply Truthfulness.**

- i. The truth of our sin is that it led to our shame (vs 24)
  1. You see you'll never give up your gossip if you call it "asking a prayer request".

2. You'll never give up your anger if you say "I just had to vent" or "get that off my chest".
  3. You'll never give up your lying if you call it "little" and "white".
  4. Truth is, our sin shames us and dishonors God.
- ii. We admit the truth about God; He is right and always will be (vs 2)
    1. Wisdom: seeing things from God's point of view.
    2. He has the right to determine what is right and what I should do and say and think.

#### 6) Vs 3-4

a. **The 4<sup>th</sup> and final characteristic that shows true acknowledgement and repentance is Persistence.**

- i. Vs 3 – Change your desires by going deep with the Lord
  1. Don't get distracted by the care of this world or the deceitfulness of riches (Matt 13)
  2. The fruit of Persistent Repentance is a firm foundation to your spiritual house.
- ii. Vs 4 – Eliminate opportunities of temptation and sin.
  1. Don't get distracted by fleshly lusts.
  2. Better to enter heaven with hand than to have the sin of your hand take you to hell.
- iii. "Break up" and "Circumcise" are long-lasting words.
  1. Our repentance turns into a new life-style!!

God has given us reasons to acknowledge and repent

- 1) He loves to Redeem
- 2) It allows us to Rest and be rejuvenated.
- 3) It brings Reconciliation with others.

And God today has shown us that true repentance is characterized by:

- 1) Emotion
- 2) Activity
- 3) Truthfulness
- 4) Persistence

Acknowledge that God is right down to every detail of your day.

Repent of your sin down to every detail of your day.

May the Lord reveal to us each detail in our lives that needs to be acknowledged and repented of. Pray