

## Repentance and Forgiveness of Sins; Luke 24:44-49

### I. Opened Their Minds

- A. I used to be jealous of this miraculous understanding given to the apostles
- B. But then I realized that I have the same understanding as them
  - 1. They wrote their (miraculous) understanding down for us
  - 2. God preserved it in a language that is no longer used
  - 3. The documents pass all tests proving their validity (better than ANY ancient documents)
- C. Our minds are opened as well as we read the Scriptures
- D. And the twofold message we proclaim is one of repentance and forgiveness

### II. Repentance

- A. We often use several different texts for our understanding of repentance
- B. But in the context of these Scriptures we are to repent of several different things
- C. Murder
  - 1. Acts 2:37–38 (ESV); <sup>37</sup> Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” <sup>38</sup> And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
  - 2. What exactly “cut” them “to the heart?”
  - 3. Acts 2:22–24 (ESV); <sup>22</sup> “Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with mighty works and wonders and signs that God did through him in your midst, as you yourselves know— <sup>23</sup> this Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men. <sup>24</sup> God raised him up, loosing the pangs of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by it.
  - 4. Peter convinced them that the person they had killed was the long awaited Messiah, the Christ
    - a) Repent that they did not believe that Jesus was the Messiah
    - b) Repent that they murdered Him (I know, we did not murder the Messiah)
    - c) Repent that they disagreed with God about the Messiah and who He was
- D. False Worship
  - 1. Paul addresses the people of Athens and their idolatry
  - 2. Acts 17:29–31 (ESV); <sup>29</sup> Being then God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the divine being is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of man. <sup>30</sup> The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent, <sup>31</sup> because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”
  - 3. God will not overlook worship of anything but Him and His Son, The Christ
- E. Sin
  - 1. We are a people who reject sin
  - 2. Revelation 21:6–8 (ESV); <sup>6</sup> And he said to me, “It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give from the spring of the water of life without payment. <sup>7</sup> The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son. <sup>8</sup> But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

3. 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 (ESV); <sup>9</sup> Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, <sup>10</sup> nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. <sup>11</sup> And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

4. It is clear that those who live a life of sin have no place in God's Kingdom

F. Repentance is key to our salvation

### III. Forgiveness

A. Greek and Roman gods

1. Zeus/Jupiter and all of the other gods were not interested in saving people only using them to fulfill their own desires
2. There are plenty of stories about Zeus' mistresses and the children of those unions
3. According to wikipedia he had over 60 children with human mistresses
4. Many movies have been made that attempt to tell the fictional story of Greek and Roman gods
5. Imagine, after worshiping gods who were only interested in fulfilling their own desires, being told about a God who sacrificed Himself, His only Son, for our salvation
6. All they have to do is be washed, cleansed by the blood of His Son
7. No wonder they were eager to hear the story and to obey the Gospel!

B. Washed

1. Wash something away from oneself
2. To wash off
3. Acts 22:14–16 (ESV); <sup>14</sup> And he said, 'The God of our fathers appointed you to know his will, to see the Righteous One and to hear a voice from his mouth; <sup>15</sup> for you will be a witness for him to everyone of what you have seen and heard. <sup>16</sup> And now why do you wait? Rise and be baptized and **wash** away your sins, calling on his name.'

C. Cleansed

1. To purify through ritual cleansing
2. To heal a person of a disease that makes one ceremonially unclean
3. Catharsis - purification or purging that brings about spiritual renewal
4. Ephesians 5:25–27 (ESV); <sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having **cleansed** her by the **washing** of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.
5. Luke 24:46–47 (ESV); <sup>46</sup> and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, <sup>47</sup> and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

D. The Father offers us washing, cleansing for those who obey him

E. Acts 5:30–32 (ESV); <sup>30</sup> The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree. <sup>31</sup> God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior, to give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. <sup>32</sup> And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

### IV. Proclaim

A. Luke 24:47 (ESV); and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem.

- B. Our response to salvation given to us by God is to proclaim the message to those who are willing to hear
  - 1. Acts 28:26–27 (ESV); <sup>26</sup> “ ‘Go to this people, and say, “You will indeed hear but never understand, and you will indeed see but never perceive.” <sup>27</sup> For this people’s heart has grown dull, and with their ears they can barely hear, and their eyes they have closed; lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their heart and turn, and I would heal them.’
  - 2. While we proclaim to all who hear, only those with open hearts and minds (good soil) will respond
  - 3. This world can only offer things that pertain to this world
  - 4. God offers us things that extend beyond this world, namely salvation
- C. Repent and be washed, cleansed, immersed
- D. Then proclaim the message of the Messiah to all who will listen