

RESTORATION WITHOUT REMORSE

TEXT: (I Samuel 15:24-31, NLT)

²⁴ Then Saul admitted to Samuel, “Yes, I have sinned. I have disobeyed your instructions and the LORD’S command, for I was afraid of the people and did what they demanded. ²⁵ But now, please forgive my sin and come back with me so that I may worship the LORD.”

²⁶ But Samuel replied, “I will not go back with you! Since you have rejected the LORD’S command, he has rejected you as king of Israel.”

²⁷ As Samuel turned to go, Saul tried to hold him back and tore the hem of his robe. ²⁸ And Samuel said to him, “The LORD has torn the kingdom of Israel from you today and has given it to someone else—one who is better than you. ²⁹ And he who is the Glory of Israel will not lie, nor will he change his mind, for he is not human that he should change his mind!”

³⁰ Then Saul pleaded again, “I know I have sinned. But please, at least honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel by coming back with me so that I may worship the LORD your God.” ³¹ So Samuel finally agreed and went back with him, and Saul worshiped the LORD.

KEY VERSE: “For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation” (II Corinthians 7:10, NLT).

INTRODUCTION

1. “‘How foolish!’ Samuel exclaimed. ‘You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you. Had you kept it, the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. But now your kingdom must end, for the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart. The LORD has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’S command” (I Samuel 13:13-14, NLT).
2. “Then Saul pleaded again, ‘I know I have sinned. But please, at least honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel by coming back with me so that I may worship the LORD your God”” (I Samuel 15:30, NLT).
3. “For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation” (II Corinthians 7:10, NLT).

I. REPENTANCE

A. Preached by John the Baptist

1. “In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea and saying, ‘Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near”” (Matthew 3:1-2, NIV).
2. “Bring forth therefore fruits worthy amendment of life” (Luke 3:8, GNV).
3. “The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire” (Luke 3:9, NIV).

B. Preached by Jesus

1. “After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ‘The time has come,’ he said. ‘The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!”” (Mark 1:14-15, NIV).

2. "There were certain men present at the same season, that shewed him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answered, and said unto them, Suppose ye, that these Galileans were greater sinners than all the *other* Galileans, because they have suffered such things? I tell you, nay, but except ye amend your lives, ye shall all likewise perish. Or think you that those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, were sinners above all men that dwell in Jerusalem? I tell you, nay, but except ye amend your lives, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:1-5, GNV).
4. "For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation" (II Corinthians 7:10, NLT).
5. "Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of *his* good pleasure" (Philippians 2:14-15, KJV).

C. Remorseful Hearts and Amended Lives

1. "Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: 'Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.' And he went outside and wept bitterly" (Matthew 26:75).

II. REPENTANCE DEFINED

A. Remorse

1. "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation" (II Corinthians 7:10, NIV).
2. "For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation" (II Corinthians 7:10, NLT).
3. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:3-6, NIV).

B. Confession of Sin and Turning toward God

1. "For the director of music. A psalm of David. When the prophet Nathan came to him after David had committed adultery with Bathsheba.

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are proved right when you speak and justified when you judge.

...Cleans me with hyssop, and I will be clean; wash me, and I will be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity.

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me" (Psalm 51:1-4, 7-12, NIV).

2. "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy" (Proverbs 28:13, NIV).

C. Includes a Lifestyle Amendment

1. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak."
 But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me."
 The man asked him, "What is your name?"
 "Jacob," he answered.
 Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome" (Genesis 32:26-28, NIV).

III. WHY REPENT?

A. It Is a Command

1. "Amend your lives therefore, and turn, that your sins may be put away, when the time of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19, GNV).
2. "After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life" (Genesis 3:24, NIV).
3. "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory" (Colossians 3:2-4, NIV).

B. It Is Necessary for Salvation

1. "Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!" (Ezekiel 18:30-32, NIV).
2. "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life" (Acts 11:18, NIV).
3. "Confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed" (James 5:16, NLT).

CONCLUSION

1. "But please, at least honor me before the elders of my people and before Israel by coming back with me so that I may worship the LORD your God." So Samuel finally agreed and went back with him, and Saul worshiped the LORD" (I Samuel 15:30-31, NLT).
2. "I am not sorry that I sent that severe letter to you, though I was sorry at first, for I know it was painful to you for a little while. Now I am glad I sent it, not because it hurt you, but because the pain caused you to repent and change your ways. It was the kind of sorrow God wants his people to have, so you were not harmed by us in any way. For the kind of sorrow God wants us to experience leads us away from sin and results in salvation. There's no regret for that kind of sorrow. But worldly sorrow, which lacks repentance, results in spiritual death" (II Corinthians 7:8-10, NLT).
3. "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near. Let the wicked forsake his way and the evil man his thoughts. Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7, NIV).
4. "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'" (Matthew 7:21-23, NIV).