

Sermon: The Difficult and Liberating Duty of Repentance.
Series: Luke: The Gospel for Everyone.

Scripture: Luke 3:1-14.
Date: February 18, 2024

OBSERVATION -- As a group, talk through and summarize the passage. Think through *Who, What, Where, When, How, Why* questions together.

INTERPRETATION -- Answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about us?

- a) Have you ever changed your mind about something? Pastor Mark told a story about changing his mind about roller coasters. Have you had a similar experience?

- b) How open are you to God's word changing you? Can you think of a recent example of God's word causing you to repent/change?

- c) Which of these prevents your repentance? Comparing (looking at the sins of others); Wounds from others that justify your sinful responses; Shame - the inability to admit sin due to the shame it will cause you.

2. What does this passage teach us about God?

- a) In what ways has your view of God affected your desire/ability to repent (ex: God as drill sergeant v. God as good father).

3. What does this passage teach us about grace/salvation? How does it point to Christ?

- a) The "sting of obedience" makes repentance difficult. How does Jesus empower us to do the hard work of repentance?

APPLICATION

- a) What specific sin do you need to be actively repenting of? Can you name it? Can you name the sin beneath the sin?

- b) Read v. 8 - "bear fruit in keeping with repentance." The tax collectors and soldiers asked "What should we do?" How would John the Baptist/Jesus respond to that question in your life?

PRAYER

- Praise God as the just and justifying Father/Judge.
- Acknowledge your need for ongoing, active repentance.
- Thank Jesus for taking God's wrath in your place.
- Ask the Holy Spirit to keep you honest and shame free in your repentance.