

Foundations of the Kingdom

Part Two

Repentance Because

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.
Or, *because* the kingdom . . .
Matthew 4:17

I. Introduction

- A. God not only tells us *what* to do; he tells us *why*!**
- B. The WHY will always drive the WHAT!**

Today, we'll talk about *what* repentance is, but first, we'll address the *why*.

II. Why? The Kingdom of Heaven is at Hand

A. WHY We Do Something Will Drive WHAT We Do.

1. Remember the kid in math class complaining, "*Why* do we have to do this?" I wish the teacher would answer the question. (Hedge-fund operators pay attention to math, and they can even count their own money!)
2. Years after my experience in that math classroom, I married the math teacher's daughter; before that I worked with him installing sprinkler systems. *Why* gluing pipes correctly was very important, or you could have a huge mess!
3. If we fail to capture the "why" **or we get the wrong "why"** (repent to be blessed and happy), we could WASTE OUR LIVES.

B. The Kingdom: Governmental term; Anywhere the King's Authority is Played Out; Anything Under Christ's Dominion

1. "At hand": within our grasp
2. This Kingdom is unlike any other kingdom!

Unto him who is able to strengthen us according to the gospel.
Romans 16: 25

- a. All other kings in history have gained strength by weakening their subordinates. (ie Roman emperors of Ottoman Sultans)
JESUS DID THE OPPOSITE!
- b. The kingdom is advancing, with or without us! It is within our grasp!

III. What? Repent.

A. Greek used here: metanoeo: “change of mind, the state of changing any or all of the elements composing one's life: attitudes, thoughts, and behaviors concerning the demands of God for right living (event or lifestyle), heartily to amend with abhorrence of one's past sins.”

- If we think that our sin doesn't affect us, or that we'll be alright simply remaining as we are, WE NEED TO CHANGE OUR MIND! (Internet, gossip)

B. Ezekiel's call for repentance to Jewish exiles-the Hebrew word “repent” means “to turn back, to return, to be recovered.”

C. I've heard it said, Repentance is simply TRADING UP.

When we're acted upon by a greater kingdom, will we trade what we are for what God wants to make us into?

D. Repentance is both an event and a process (ENLI)

1. It's an Event. It has to start somewhere. (Ask yourself, has it started in my life?) The kingdom is at our grasp, and we repent in order to know the king. Do we know Him? Do we walk in the power of His kingdom?
2. Yet, it's also a Process. I have been learning this from marriage
repentance is an ongoing lifestyle.

But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.
2 Cor. 3:18

E. The big question: Have you GRASPED the Kingdom? Have you TRULY experienced repentance? Do you know the King?

This might be uncomfortable to ask—but no repentance is comfortable!

IV. Conclusion

The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness.

2 Peter 3:9-11