

True Repentance

Nehemiah 9

Introduction

They read the scriptures for the first time in Nehemiah 8 and they wept because of their sin. They then built huts and practiced the feast of tabernacles for 8 days.

Then they came to a place of repentance

What is true repentance?

Lew Wallace Civil War General / Judge in Lincoln assassination / Governor of New Mexico during Billy the Kid / Author of the Book Ben-Hur

“Repentance must be something more than mere remorse for sins: it commands a change of nature befitting heaven”

– Lew Wallace

“True repentance isn’t just saying I’m sorry. It’s saying I’m sorry I’ll never ever do it again because my relationship with you means more to me than anything”

– Serita Ann Jakes

“The greatest word in the Christian language”

– Jeffrey Holland

“It is not a whip to beat yourself with but it is a loving reunion with God.”

“A Christian isn’t a man who never goes wrong but a man who is enabled to repent”

– Jonathan Edwards

In Nehemiah 9, we see a beautiful picture of true repentance

Verse 1-3 True Repentance Begins in Brokenness

1. The feast of joy was over V8:10
2. Now they fasted and mourned
3. Sackcloth and dirt ashes
4. They separated from all strangers
5. They stood and confessed the sins of their fathers
6. They understood their sin Isaiah 1:6
7. Repentance begins with true understanding of one sinful state
8. They stood again to hear the word of God
9. They confessed and worshipped

Verses 4-31 True Repentance has a Healthy Remembrance

1. You are the creator Verse 6
2. You are the God of Abraham Verse 7-8
3. You are the God of Moses Deliverance/ Manna/ Water/ Law/ Clothing that never faded Verses 9-21
4. Judges and the continual deliverance and mercy Verses 22-31
5. Those of remembrance must remember all that God has done to bring them redemption
6. Revelation 2:5 remember and repent
7. It is good to reminisce and remember

Verses 32-37 True Repentance Precedes the Merciful Forgiveness of God

1. You are a great God
2. You are a God that keeps covenants
3. You are a God that shows mercy
4. We are people that deserve all we have received
5. Please show us mercy one more time

Verse 38 True Repentance Precedes Action

1. We now cut a new covenant
2. They wanted to start over a fresh
3. They signed a sure covenant
4. Chapter 10:1 The first name was Nehemiah

Conclusion:

1. You cannot repent unless you are broken first
2. You cannot repent unless you understand that you are sinful
3. You cannot repent unless you understand that God is merciful
4. You cannot repent unless you remember all God has done for you
5. When you truly repent, you will take action to start over.

Isaiah 1:16-20 I will make you whiter than snow.