

**Luke 15: 1-7; “The Parable of the Lost Sheep”, Session # 11 – “Joy Over Many Sinners Repenting”, Presented by Pastor Paul Rendall on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in the Adult Sunday School.**

**Luke 15: 1-7** – “Then all the tax collectors and the sinners drew near to Him to hear Him. And the Pharisees and scribes complained, saying, ‘This Man receives sinners and eats with them.’ “So He spoke this parable to them, saying: ‘What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he loses one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness, and go after the one which is lost until he finds it?’ “And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders, rejoicing.” “And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep which was lost!’ “I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.”

We have been talking about there being “more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over 99 just persons who need no repentance”. We have seen that the 99 sheep, or the Jews who belonged to the scribes and the Pharisees (they were under their spiritual instruction and care), they thought that they did not need to repent. We must assume that they learned this from their teachers. But we know from many places in the Scriptures that all men need to repent of their sins and believe in Jesus Christ.

The scribes and the Pharisees thought of themselves, not as sin-sick sinners who needed to repent, but those who by their own works, were approved of by God. Thus they did not see their need to believe in the Lord Jesus for salvation. In fact, they hated Him because He was showing them their sins, and He was expecting them to believe in Him for salvation. The one sheep, in our Parable, who is found by the Lord Jesus and brought “home” and into His fold, is the sheep who knew that it was lost. We have looked at Zacchaeus and how the Lord sought Him out specifically, and brought him to salvation. We have looked at Levi and how the Lord called him to repentance.

Today we want to know and understand that according to the Scriptures, that there will be joy in heaven also, by many sinners repenting.

**The Joy of God over the Repentance of Many Sinners in a whole Nation, according to His will.**

Even whole nations of people in general will come to Christ, later on in this church age it says in a number of places in the Scriptures. And the Scriptures are very plain about the conversion of the Jews to Christ in a coming day in Romans chapter 11, verses 16-27. Verse 27 of that chapter says – The Deliverer will come out of Zion, and He will turn away ungodliness from Jacob; For this My covenant with them, when I take away their sins.

And so I would like us take a look at the repentance of the Jews on that great day when the Lord will save them. What I have said about the joy of one sinner repenting and many sinners repenting at the same time, holds true, as we look at the Scriptures. The truths concerning repentance are the same.

**Four Statements of what True Repentance Does –**

**1. True Repentance includes, if it is needed, your mourning over your having rejected Christ for some time.**

**In the case of the Jews as a nation of people, this rejection has continued for almost 2000 years now.** (But we can apply this truth both individually and nationally)

**Zechariah 12: 10 – 13: 1** – “And I will pour on the house of David and on the inhabitants of Jerusalem the Spirit of grace and supplication; then they will look on Me whom they pierced. Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn. In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, like the mourning at Hadad Rimmon in the plain of Megiddo. And the land shall mourn, every family by itself: the family of the house of David by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Nathan by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of the house of Levi by itself, and their wives by themselves; the family of Shimei by itself, and their wives by themselves; all the families that remain, every family by itself, and their wives by themselves. In that day a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, for sin and for uncleanness.”

**Question # 1** – Is it the case that in the conversion of every person to Christ, there needs to be poured out on them the Spirit of grace and supplication, so that they will mourn over their sins and repent over them?

**Answer:** Yes, each of us, in order to be saved, must be given grace to repent, or we will not see our need to repent. (**Acts 10: 44 & 45** – “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.” “And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.”

**And also Acts 11: 15-18** – “And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning.” “Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” “If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?” “When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, ‘Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life.’”

So repentance is something that requires that grace, the Spirit of grace and supplication, be bestowed by God upon a person so that they can repent in a way which recognizes the greatness of their sins.

**Question # 2** – What will this repentance of the Jews, on that day in which they are converted, consist of?

**Answer:** It will consist of their looking on Christ, the One whom they pierced. And it will lead them to mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son, and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.

**Question # 3** – Why should they mourn and grieve in this way over Christ?

**Answer:** Because they rejected Him as being the One sent to them from God to teach them about their need of Him because of their lost and sinful condition. And further, they called for His crucifixion, when Pilate would have released Him. And further yet, when Pilate washed his hands before them, saying that he was innocent of Jesus’ blood, they said – His blood be on us and our children. Here is great guilt, not only individually, but nationally.

**2. True Repentance recognizes the importance of Repenting of Sinful Words that we have spoken concerning Jesus.**

**Matthew 27: 20-26** – “But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitudes that they should ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. The governor answered and said to them, ‘Which of the two do you want me to release to you?’” “They said ‘Barabbas!’” “Pilate said to them, ‘What then shall I do with Jesus who is

called the Christ?” “They all said to him, ‘Let Him be crucified!’” “Then the governor said, ‘Why, what has He done?’” “But they cried out all the more, saying, ‘Let Him be crucified!’” “When Pilate saw that he could not prevail at all, but rather that a tumult was rising, he took water and washed his hands before the multitude, say, ‘I am innocent of the blood of this just Person.’” “You see to it.” “And all the people answered and said, ‘His blood be on us and on our children.’” “Then he released Barabbas to them; and when he had scourged Jesus, he delivered Him to be crucified.”

**Question # 4** – Why would the chief priest and elders of the Jews there that day want to persuade the multitudes that they should ask for Barabas the robber to be set free?

**Answer:** They thought that He was not the Son of God, that rather He was in league with the Devil, and that He was an enemy to their church and their temple.

**Question # 5** – Why would they so much want to see Jesus be crucified that they would say to Pilate – His blood, Jesus’ blood, be on us and on our children?

**Answer:** Because they had deceived themselves into thinking that they had a righteous cause in killing the Lord Jesus, when they did not. The Jews in their blindness and hardness of heart rejected the Lord Jesus as their Messiah. This has brought down the judgment of God upon them as a nation and a people for the whole time since Christ was crucified to this present day.

### **3. True Repentance acknowledges the righteousness of God’s Judgments.**

**Luke 21: 20-24** – “But when you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation is near.” “Then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains, let those who are in the midst of her depart, and let not those who are in the country enter her.” “For these are the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled.” “But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days!” “For there will be great distress in the land and wrath upon this people.” “And they will fall by the edge of the sword, and be led away captive into all nations.” “And Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.”

**Question # 6** – When Jesus says that Jerusalem will be trampled by Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled, are we still in that time period of Jerusalem being trampled down by Gentiles?

**Answer:** Yes, it is evident that we are still in that time period.

### **4. True Repentance apprehends the mercy of God in Christ.**

**Matthew 23: 37-39** – “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her!” “How often I wanted to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing!” “See!” “Your house is left to you desolate; for I say to you, you shall see Me no more till you say, ‘Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**Question # 7** – When Jesus says that the house of the Jews was left to them desolate and that they would not see Him any more till they said – Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, what do you think that this means?

**Answer:** It means that when they turn to the Lord and repent of their sins, and when they welcome the messengers of the gospel, as a nation, saying – Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, they shall

be saved. And they will repent in just the way that it is described in Zachariah 12. And there will be joy in heaven over the many sinners who will repent.