

Small Group Discussion Guide — July 4, 2021

- Series: Beholding Jesus
 - Sermon: Jesus and Repentance
 - Scripture: Mark 1: 15, Luke 24: 46-47
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FOLLOW-UP FROM LAST WEEK

What change did you notice in your attitude toward marginalized people this week? Did you have any experience in which you were able to interact or help someone in obvious need? Share about your experience, if so.

CONNECT

1. What stood out to you from this past week's service, and why?
2. What's the most embarrassing fashion trend you used to rock?

ENGAGE

1. Read Mark 1: 15.
 - The context in this chapter is Jesus' entrance into public ministry. What is Jesus calling their attention to in this verse?
 - With all the direction He could give them in this seminal moment, what is the first thing He tells them to do? Why do you think this is so?
 - How would you define the word "repent"?
2. Read Luke 24: 46-47.
 - What is the context of these verses? How does it compare to the passage above, and why is this important?
 - What are the two main events Luke is highlighting here? What is the relationship between the two?
 - What is the point of repentance, in verse 47? Do you think one can exist without the other?

APPLY

1. Discuss how you have perceived and understood the word "repentance" in the past. What misconceptions have you had? What emotions have you attached to it? How do Jesus' teachings challenge your understanding of repentance?
2. How is repentance different from *penance*? How do they look different, played out in reality? Why do you think we might be tempted toward penance, as opposed to real repentance?
3. According to 1 John 1:9, God will forgive us when we confess our sins and repent of them. How is this different from modern notions that one can be spiritual and connected to God, without the intentional admission of our individual sin? How does admitting you are sinful actually lead to life?

PRAYER

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

GOING DEEPER

David shared a simple story of the night he gave his heart to Jesus. If you have come to faith, share your story of conversion with your group, if you haven't done so before. If you haven't come to faith yet, consider praying the prayer above in faith, surrendering your everything to Jesus.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURE

Psalm 51: 1-12

John 10:10

2 Timothy 3:5

1 John 1:9

QUOTATIONS

“The Christian's spiritual life doesn't begin with hope. It doesn't begin with chastity. It doesn't even begin with obedience. It begins, according to the gospels, with repentance.”

Gary Thomas

“There were many around Jesus who were either the crowd, the curious, the concerned, or the inspired. They observed His teaching and demonstrations of God's Kingdom but they did not enter it. You can observe the Kingdom of God without repentance, you can be curious about the kingdom of God without repentance, you can even place yourself alongside it without repentance; but Jesus' call was to enter it - and to do that is to repent. Sanity and repentance are partners. To repent before God is to align your life with what is true - true of God and true of yourself. In Daniel 4, when Nebuchadnezzar praised himself, he went insane. When he praised God, his sanity was restored. When Isaiah encountered God, he was undone - when he repented, he was saved. Repentance is not only essential in our relationship with God, it is also bringing ourselves into alignment with His truth; which means it is not only life giving, it is also sanity giving.”

David Dwight