

Beech Haven Church Sunday Sermon 7/12

Have you ever looked back at that really bad decision and thought, “What was I thinking”

Lawn Mower

The truth is you weren't thinking or rather you thinking was not aligned to wisdom.

SLIDE 1: Repentance:Remember and Confess

- Realigns with God

INTRO

a. The children of Israel were assembled: After the wall was completed, after the wall was functioning, after the people had heard and obeyed God's word, after the Holy Spirit had already done a significant work in the lives of people – now there is a scene of dramatic, humble repentance.

SLIDE 2 Repentance Realigns

We need this and we want this

And we will find God's people doing just that in Nehemiah Chapter 9

National Confession of Sin Chapter 9

SLIDE 3- 9 On the twenty-fourth day of this month, the Israelites assembled; they were fasting, wearing sackcloth, and had put dust on their heads.

b. Assembled with fasting: Fasting showed their lowly, humble state. They also wanted to say, “we are so troubled by our sin that food seems unimportant.”

c. In sackcloth: This was wearing rough fabric, like a burlap bag. Again, this was to show their complete poverty of spirit before God. They also wanted to say, “we are so troubled by our sin that the normal comforts of life are unimportant.”

d. With dust on their heads: This meant they took little handfuls of dirt and cast them on their heads. This was also to show their lowly state before God, and to say “we are so troubled by our sin that the normal comforts of life are unimportant.”

How did they get to this heart posture of repentance?

SLIDE 4- 2 Those of Israelite descent separated themselves from all foreigners, and they stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their ancestors. 3 While they stood in their places, they read from the book of the law of the Lord their God for a fourth of the day and spent another fourth of the day in confession and worship of the Lord their God.

They stood up in their place and read from the Book of the Law: The humble repentance and confession of sin would have been an incomplete work if it were not for hearing the word and worship. God does not show us our sin just so that we will humbly confess it, but so that we can walk on in what is right before Him. God's word reveals, himself and ourself

SLIDE 5- Repentance Part 1 Remember

Looking back, the wall was built for those who repented and returned.

What did their repentance look like? Longest Prayer

SLIDE 6- 9:6

You,[a] Lord, are the only God.[b]

**You created the heavens,
the highest heavens with all their stars,
the earth and all that is on it,
the seas and all that is in them.
You give life to all of them,
and all the stars of heaven worship you.**

11

**You divided the sea before them,
and they crossed through it on dry ground.
You hurled their pursuers into the depths
like a stone into raging water.**

12

**You led them with a pillar of cloud by day,
and with a pillar of fire by night,
to illuminate the way they should go.**

15

**You provided bread from heaven for their hunger;
you brought them water from the rock for their thirst.
You told them to go in and possess the land
you had sworn[c] to give them.**

21 a

**You provided for them in the wilderness forty years,
and they lacked nothing.**

22a

**You gave them kingdoms and peoples
and established boundaries for them.**

23

**You multiplied their descendants
like the stars of the sky
and brought them to the land
you told their ancestors to go in and possess.**

Remembrance is one part of repentance

You saw the affliction of our fathers in Egypt: A second sure sign of revival (following brokenness of heart) is reflection on the goodness of God. When our pride is cast down and our hearts are humble before God, we can begin to see Him for who He is – and when we see that, we see how good God is.

Knowing God- Those who know God think highly of God, if you do not you are not aligned you need to remember this morning.

The big picture, remembering God's goodness, look at the country you are in, church, faith.

When we uncover new aspects of who God is, we want to repent

Remembering God's forgiveness helped them see ahead to God's promises

Remembering keeps you from making the same mistakes.

Remembering changes the way you see things (or what you choose to remember)

SLIDE 7- This is.... Metanoia, rooted in the Greek word *metanoia*, is biblical repentance, fundamentally a transformation of perspective. You stop looking at the world and your actions through the lens of sin and begin seeing them through God's standards.

Your perspective changes when you remember or look back at God's grace.

In seeing God's goodness, we realize our sin- missing the mark.

SLIDE 8- Repentance Part 2: Confession.

- After remembering and seeing how good God is we begin to realize our fallen state.

SLIDE 9- 16

**But our ancestors acted arrogantly;
they became stiff-necked and did not listen to your commands.**

Hardened their necks.... refused to obey...were not mindful: This is another sign of revival – recognition of our own sinfulness. When we humbly seek God, and see His goodness, we can't help but to next notice our own sinfulness – the blackness of our sin stands out against the brightness of God's purity and goodness.

17a

They refused to listen

and did not remember your wonders

you performed among them.

They became stiff-necked and appointed a leader

to return to their slavery in Egypt.[d]

26a

But they were disobedient and rebelled against you.

28a

But as soon as they had relief,

they again did what was evil in your sight.

all like sheep have gone astray unaligned

Danger in not confessing sin.

Slide 10- 1 John 8-10

8 If we say, "We have no sin," we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and

righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say, “We have not sinned,” we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

If his truth is not in us how can we do His will? If His truth is not in us we are misaligned.

- The English word sin comes from the idea “to miss the mark.” In an archery tournament, if one did not hit the target in the right place, they would say they “sinned.” A sin might miss the target by an inch, or it might miss it by ten feet – but it was still a sin either way. We sin when we do what God has told us not to do (telling us either in His word, in our conscience, or through legitimate authority), or when we do not do what God has told us to do (telling us in His word, conscience, or authority). Not all sin is the same, but all sin is sin.

Sin separates eternally for the unsaved and relationally for the saved. Marriage: sin does not mean we aren't married but it can make us unaligned, but forgiveness realigns; now we can be effective.

Repent why? For the kingdom of God is at hand, Matthew 3:2

Repentance renews so we can fulfill God's will (don't stay stuck, don't wallow in sin)
Those people understood that

Slide 11-

33

**You are righteous concerning all that has happened to us,
because you have acted faithfully, (remembrance)
while we have acted wickedly. (Confession)**

Change of perspective, a realignment

What is the result?

SLIDE 12- 36

**Here we are today,
slaves in the land you gave our ancestors
so that they could enjoy its fruit and its goodness.
Here we are—slaves in it!**

Freedom, we choose to be slaves to sin.

38 In view of all this, we are making a binding agreement in writing on a sealed document containing the names of our leaders, Levites, and priests.

The last sure sign of repentance – after brokenness of heart, after reflection on God's goodness, after recognition of our sinfulness- is a renewal of our obedience. We come to a place of decision, so this work of God is not just a wonderful experience, but something that shapes our future.

And verse 38 shows us the difference between...

Shame vs conviction.

Repentance leads to conviction, and conviction leads to change; shame leads to being stuck, shame, guilt.

SLIDE 13- What specific act of confession or remembrance could help you realign your heart with God's grace this week?