

2 • Repentance is a Change of Mind

At the end of last week's lesson, we heard Peter preach in **Acts 3:19-20**, "Repent therefore, and _____ back, that your sins may be blotted out, that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."

Sins can be forgiven. We can be innocent in the sight of God. But not without repentance. So how does that "turning back" really happen?

Repentance involves a change of mind, and a great place to see that is Jesus' parable of the prodigal son in **Luke 15**:

"There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, _____ me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he _____ his property in reckless living. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

"But when he _____, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, _____ against heaven and before you. I am _____ to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.'" (15:11-19)

How was this young man thinking before he left home?

"I _____ to be given _____ I want, _____ I want."

How was he thinking in that far country, a long ways away from home?

"I can _____ whatever I want, whenever I _____, in the _____ I want."

And how did his thinking change as he came to himself?

"I've made a terribly _____ trade. I have _____. I'm no longer _____."

Repentance is more than, "I'm going to stop sinning and start behaving." Repentance means I'm going to stop loving sin and start loving God the way I should have all along.



For Class & Family Discussion:

- Reminding ourselves of the **why** Jesus told his parables is always a good idea. What do you see in **Luke 15:1-2** about *why* Jesus told his parables in **Luke 15**?

- How was the younger son saying, “I deserve to be given whatever I want, whenever I want” before he left home?

- Can we be guilty of thinking the same way today? Is that a big deal?

- How was the younger son saying, “I can do whatever I want, whenever I want, in the way I want” while he was in that far country, a long ways away from home?

- Can we be guilty of thinking the same way today? Is that a big deal?

- In your own words, what does the beginning of **Luke 15:17** really mean—“**But when he came to himself...**”?

- Do we all always “come to ourselves” in the same way as everybody else? Why does it sometimes take really tough circumstances or really bad consequences in order for us to finally “come to ourselves”? Is that okay?

- Let’s think carefully through and discuss together how that younger son changed in his thinking as he came to himself. Why was it important for him to realize...
 - “I’ve made a terribly bad trade”?

 - “I have sinned”?

 - “I’m no longer worthy”?

- Our video ended with this thought: repentance means I’m going to stop loving sin and start loving God the way I should have all along. How does David’s prayer in **Psalms 51** help us understand that principle?