

DO YOU AGREE WITH JESUS?

QUESTION: What is repentance?

One of the most difficult commands to obey in Scripture is the need to repent of our sins. Repentance is viewed a variety of ways by many. Some think repentance is being sorry for what one has done wrong. Others think that repentance is a change of life that leads one away from sin and toward God. I have often heard it said that the most difficult thing to get the lost to do is repent. Repentance is difficult, and much of the difficulty in obeying this command arises from a misunderstanding of what it really involves. Let us see what Jesus says about repentance.

Jesus taught a parable, saying, "A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his Father?" (Matthew 21:28-31). In the Greek language, the word translated "repent(ed)" indicates the idea of thinking differently about one's actions afterward. In other words, repentance is a change of mind which results in a change of action. It is not merely regretting what we have done, though certainly that is part of forming a different view of sin and its consequences. Many only regret getting caught in their sins, or they regret the consequences of their actions. Such is the sorrow of the world (2 Corinthians 7:10). We must learn to see sin as God sees it. Then and only then will we change our mind about sin, and turn to God. Jesus tells us of the importance of repentance when he said, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Repent without delay! Change your mind about sin, and you will find that your life will change for the better as a result!

Do you have a question that you would like for us to consider together, or a comment regarding what has been written? If so, please email us at sixthavenue@bellsouth.net, or write to us at the Sixth Avenue Church of Christ, 1501 Sixth Avenue, Jasper, Alabama, 35501.