

### **OVERTHROW**

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## **Summary day 18**

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GOSPEL MESSAGE

## REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NEAR!

**INTERCESSION** 

LET US JUDGE THE WORKS OF IDOLS!

#### REPENT, FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS NEAR!

Mark 1:14–15 (NIV), After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!

The Word of God declares that Jesus began preaching the Gospel. But what exactly did He say? Today, many people preach. But what's important here is to understand how Jesus preached. What did He say? What did He ask of people? This is to reassure you that you're on the right path.

Jesus preached the kingdom of God. He preached true repentance. He preached submission to the message of the Good News. You must know the Good News. You must know that there is a message—a message from God to humanity—a message called the Good News, a message that announces God's mercy and forgiveness, a message that proclaims grace, a state in which God decides to forgive all who repent: "Repent, for the kingdom of God has come near." You must enter the kingdom of God. To do that, you must repent. You must remain firmly attached to the truth, to obedience to the Gospel, which is the light and power of God for the salvation of everyone who believes.

I will explain how to repent. If there is someone among us, a guest or visitor who knows nothing about repentance, pay close attention. Many people belong to religions without repentance, yet they are expecting God's salvation. That is not possible. Jesus began to preach by saying: "The kingdom of heaven has come near. Repent and believe the good news."

We repent because we have committed sins and are still committing them. What God requires is repentance. Some people have become experts in confession—they sin and then confess, again and again. Jesus calls for repentance.

According to the dictionary, to repent is to renounce one's intentions. If you were going to steal, when you repent, you first stop and turn around. If you steal and say, "Lord, forgive me, I'm stealing," or, "Oh God, have mercy on me. I'm on my way to steal. Oh God, I steal, it's your problem." If you do that, you're a hypocrite. You will be judged. When you repent, you stop and turn back. That is repentance. When God sees a man who turns away from evil, He blesses him.

God said to Satan: "Have you considered my servant Job? He shuns evil. He has left the path of wickedness. As he walks, when he identifies sin or wickedness, he changes direction." But there are some who say, "Lord, I on my way." They go toward evil and say, "Lord, may my heart reject it when I arrive." Imagine someone at a bar saying, "I don't want to drink alcohol anymore." But he's already there. He says, "Lord, that's it. Oh Lord, strengthen me. I'm going, but I don't want to go. Oh God, have mercy on me. Oh Lord, forgive me." And then, at the counter, he says, "God, I'm putting my hand in my pocket." And there he is, paying for a bottle of beer. He says, "Oh Lord, let it break! Oh God, you didn't break the bottle!" That's a hypocrite. You need to believe. And the Holy Spirit warns, saying: don't go there. When God warns you, you repent.

To repent, the first rule is to Acknowledge the sins you are committing—to admit that what you are doing is sin, not just mistakes or little faults. Sin is sin—it is the transgression of the law of God. Sin is when you do what God said not to do. Even if everyone does it, even if everyone says it's okay, if God says it's not okay, and you do it, you sin.

When you read the Bible, you find expressions like: "Israel did what was evil in the sight of the Lord," or "what displeased the Lord." If God says adultery is a sin, even if everyone else says it isn't, before God, it is a sin. So if you commit it, you sin.

Israel did what displeased the Lord. Whether people agree or not it doesn't matter. What matters is whether the Lord called it sin. That's what we care about. Some people often ask, "Is that in the Bible?" The Bible says that all iniquity is sin.

What is iniquity, according to the Bible? If there are papers on the ground and I could pick them up but leave them for someone else to clean, that's sin. It is written: "Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and does not do it, sins." But you won't find any verse in the Bible that says: "Pick up that paper."

If you practice iniquity—if your behavior violates righteousness and fairness—you are a sinner. If you smoke, you sin. If someone next to you dislikes smoke and you blow smoke around them, you sin. The Word of God says: "If you eat meat and it causes your brother to stumble, don't eat meat." If you eat meat and it causes your brother to sin, you are guilty—you have sinned. Your behavior becomes a stumbling block. That's selfishness.

**Jeremiah 2:23 (NIV),** How can you say, I am not defiled; I have not run after the Baals? See how you behaved in the valley; consider what you have done. You are a swift she-camel running here and there.

What does this mean? God is speaking to those who think they haven't sinned. They say, "I already go to church." Yet, they are seen with free masons, visiting witch doctors for help. They have perfumes given to them by sorcerers and still claim to be pure. They're full of anger, full of hatred—their hearts are rotten, yet they pretend to be holy.

God says: "How can you say you haven't sinned? Look at your footprints in the valley. God wants you to be truthful. That's why when someone wants to repent, they should take a pen and a sheet of paper and write down their sins. Say: "I steal, I lie, I am wicked." That's what God wants. He says, "Acknowledge what you have done." That's the first step: acknowledging your sin. Acknowledge what you've done. Acknowledge that you're like a dromedary camel. acknowledge that you are a prostitute. Acknowledge it—don't pretend. When someone acknowledges his sins, God opens the door to listen to the rest of his prayer. That admission is already a first step of righteousness along the path of justice. When someone acknowledges that he is a drunkard, that he drinks alcohol, smokes, masturbates, and that no one knows about it—when someone has already acknowledge that he harbors hidden anger, and decides to confess it—the very

fact that he has acknowledged that he is wicked, that he carries anger and hatred within him, God has already taken note of that as righteousness. Now, once you have acknowledged it, you must confess and repent. All of this is part of repentance. When we speak of repentance, this is what it means: First, you acknowledge your sins without pretending. Second, you confess them.

Jeremiah 8:4 (NIV), Say to them, 'This is what the Lord says: When people fall down, do they not get up? When someone turns away, do they not return?

They refuse to turn away from evil, and God tells the prophet: go and ask them two questions. The first question is: "Have you ever seen someone fall and remain lying down?"

God says: "They claim to be believers, that they are pure. Go and ask them—have they ever seen someone fall and stay down?"

Let no one deceive you! Some people say, "The righteous fall seven times and rise again." But you—you haven't gotten up. You're wallowing in the mud. Since you fell, you've never gotten up. You're wicked; you're rolling in the mud!

When true children of God fall, they get back up. You will never find them lying in the mud. But you, you're in the mud, cigarette in your mouth, contact lists full of prostitutes!

You have no intention of stopping—but tonight, you will stop, because there will be a divorce from sin. You too will testify.

The second question is: "When you go astray, and someone tells you this is not the way, why do you want to continue going astray?" You tell someone: "The place you're looking for is behind you—you passed it." But he just keeps going. When someone tells you: "Brother, you are off track—turn around," you refuse.

Let's take an example. You say to someone: "Give your life to Jesus." He replies, "I've already given my life to Jesus." You say, "Repent of your sins." He says, "I've already repented." Then you say, "Let's go now to the waters of baptism," and he answers, "I was baptized as a baby." What is he doing? He is refusing to correct an error.

You see, Jesus said, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved." But you hadn't even believed yet, and you were already baptized. You grew up and lived in sin. Now the message of repentance is preached to you, and you accept it—but you say you can't be baptized because you were baptized as a baby. God says: "Can someone go astray and not return?" There are many examples of people who went wrong and risk continuing in error without correcting it. The Bible says that baptism is the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. Baptism is not a trivial act—it is an act of salvation. You repent, and you get baptized.

Colossians 2:12 (NIV), Having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

Baptism has spiritual meaning that determines how it should be practiced. The Bible says that when someone has repented, it means they have identified with Jesus in His death, and so they are buried.

The grave is represented here by water into which the person is plunged, just as a dead body is laid in the grave. Some say that baptism means being dead with Jesus, buried with Jesus, and raised with Jesus—so if someone merely sprinkles a few drops of water on you, you are not baptized! Baptism represents death with Jesus, burial with Jesus, and resurrection with Jesus. Baptism must even reflect the movements of burial and resurrection.

"Does one walk away and not return?" God will not overlook that. God may understand that you fell—but He will never accept that you fell and stayed down. Let no servant of God deceive you! God may understand that you went astray—but He will never accept that He sent someone to help you and you refused to listen. Because He said in His Word: "Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding." (Jeremiah 3:15 NIV). When God sees someone who has gone astray, He sends His true servants to that person. God never lets the enemy win that battle. If you've been deceived, God will do everything to send a true messenger to visit you. But the problem comes when that messenger arrives and finds you lying there—and you're comfortable in that state. At that point, God refuses to understand.

#### To repent:

You acknowledge your sins;

You confess them.

When you begin to confess them, God starts listening to your words to see if there is truth in what you say. Words are a reflection of what is in the heart. When the heart is empty, your words are empty. When the heart is contrite, humbled, touched, and repentant—your words will express it. When people hear what you say, they can measure the depth of the thoughts within you.

Jeremiah 8:6 (NIV): "I have listened attentively, but they do not say what is right. None of them repent of their wickedness, saying, 'What have I done?' Each pursues their own course like a horse charging into battle."

God says that when people come to repent, He listens attentively—He opens His ears and hears their prayers. But what He observes is that they're speaking aimlessly. Someone who has sinned and wants forgiveness doesn't even stop to ask the question: "What have I done?" That's not right. He simply says: "God, forgive me." But justice requires that you at least ask yourself: "What have I done?" When God hears someone sincerely ask, "What have I done?" and then say to Him, "I don't want to do it again," God immediately fills them with the Holy Spirit. If God hears a human being acknowledge their sin, confess it, and tell Him they forsake it —dear friend, that's what we call salvation. You are saved. You are forgiven. But if you act like those whom God denounces here—those who, once they've finished confessing, go back to drinking alcohol—then you're

not truly repentant. You may have confessed your sins often—and that's a good thing. But tonight, God is asking you to abandon them. Tonight, confess them and abandon them. God wants both confession and the forsaking of sin. That's what it means. The true God who sent His Son Jesus has said that the kingdom of God has come near. He declares: "Repent and believe the good news." That is what the Father requires: Seek salvation through genuine repentance—without deceit. You decide, you confess, and you forsake. If that's what you want—come.

#### LET US JUDGE THE WORKS OF IDOLS!

**Jeremiah 3:24–25 (NIV)**, From our youth shameful gods have consumed the fruits of our ancestors' labor— their flocks and herds, their sons and daughters. Let us lie down in our shame, and let our disgrace cover us. We have sinned against the Lord our God, both we and our ancestors; from our youth till this day we have not obeyed the Lord our God.

We must judge the works of evil spirits, demons, and the devil. We must judge them.

To judge here means to evaluate. What have the idols brought us? What did they bring our ancestors? Those gods worshipped in swamps, forests, cemeteries, mountains, and waters—those gods that constantly cry out, "Bring us sheep! Bring us oxen!" What have all these things brought us?

You will say they brought us nothing. Our parents worked, and they devoured it all. They demanded the sacrifice of children. When you listen to testimonies, you realize it. Jesus said: "The thief comes only to steal..." (John 10:10). There is no such thing as a good Satan. All the practices of our parents were never to the glory of our God. Everything they did in the name of tradition and custom was to obey the will of principalities at work in our families. You will judge them. We see no wealth, not even protection. You must proclaim that even if your brothers are scattered across the nations or villages, salvation will reach them. This is war—a battle for salvation. When the Lord acts, He will cause them to be converted. He will allow some to give their lives to Jesus before they die. He will heal sicknesses, migraines. Imagine a spirit inside you that confuses your mind so much you cannot focus.

Acts 16:16–18 (NIV), Once when we were going to the place of prayer, we were met by a female slave who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She earned a great deal of money for her owners by fortune-telling. She followed Paul and the rest of us, shouting, 'These men are servants of the Most High God, who are telling you the way to be saved.' She kept this up for many days. Finally Paul became so annoyed that he turned around and said to the spirit, 'In the name of Jesus Christ I command you to come out of her!' At that moment the spirit left her.

This slave girl had a spirit of python. Her behavior was driven by that python. For several days, she followed the apostles until they were weary. They commanded the python to come out—and it left. These things have existed since the fall of man because the devil is on earth.

#### Stand up and say:

- God is not wicked! Our misery, our poverty, our suffering came from the idols that I, my parents, and my ancestors chose! Poor, sick—that's the work of idols that devoured the fruits of our labor! They demanded that our children be slaves. The result: villages bewitched, impoverished, filled with incurable diseases! Idols brought us nothing! Idols impoverished us! Idols made us sick!
- Lord Jesus, may Your kingdom come into my family! You are the true God! You are the Gate for the sheep! It is Your blessing that makes rich! (Keep praying in faith!)
- Lord, false gods have made us poor! The gods of the rivers and mountains—all these false gods have brought misery! O Jesus, come take Your place! You alone are worthy to be served and worshipped! It's You, Jesus! (Keep proclaiming!)
- Lord Jesus, You are the One who brings true deliverance! True freedom! True blessing! (Declare it out loud!)
- Jesus on the throne! False gods, idols—out! (Pray in tongues.)
- In the name of Jesus, all false gods, all idols—we drive you out of our families! We
  drive you out along with all your diseases, all your bewitchment, all your curses!
  Pack up everything and leave! Never return! We worship Jesus! I give Jesus to my
  family! You—leave my life! Leave the life of my family! (Keep praying!)
- In the name of Jesus, I pray for the whole extended family! (Keep praying.)
- In the name of Jesus, we break every grave you've built! (Keep praying.)
- We break those prisons you erected! We break every grave—even if they are multi level tombs—we destroy every level! We release the captives! Begone! Our God is Jesus! Our Creator is Jesus!
- In the name of Jesus, we cut down every tree you planted! We overthrow everything you raised up! (Keep praying.)
- In the name of Jesus, let everything that was swallowed be vomited out! Let our swallowed riches be vomited! Let them be expelled from the bellies of the tyrants! (Keep praying.)
- In the name of Jesus, let those who were chained be delivered! Let every chain be broken! Let those who were cursed be blessed! We wash every spit that was hurled against the saints in the blood of Jesus! May the Word of the Lord be fulfilled in every saint who is set apart and sanctified, in the name of Jesus Christ! Things will happen in the name of Jesus! The priests of false gods will go till the land for daily bread. They will no longer be listened to. They will no longer be popular. Those who bear the name of Jesus will be sought after.
- If there is any prison door resisting, we break it in the name of Jesus! The work is deep—there will be no refuge for the enemy.
- If a spirit has fled and hidden in another kingdom, we strike it there! (Press on in tongues.)
- We scatter every coven of witches in our families—those who love witchcraft and dealings with principalities, who request powers to abuse their brothers! We banish the works of sorcerers!
- · In the name of Jesus, we break and banish every work of witchcraft in our

families! We overthrow it! We release the captives! (Press on in tongues.)

- In the name of Jesus, we deliver every captive, everyone who was chained! We break their bonds! We set them free! Those who were programmed to die, those who were meant to be killed, those who were enslaved, those who were doomed —we deliver them!
- If there is anyone suffering because sorcerers have devoured them or inflicted them with disease, we judge that work! We deliver that person! We tear out that evil and throw it into the abyss! Whatever the disease—we tear it out and cast it into the abyss!
- If you are sick because a sorcerer touched you, I declare: you are free, in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth!
- If you are in chains, I break those chains! I shatter those chains!
- If you have a wound inflicted by sorcerers, I declare: you are healed!
- If there is a lump in your body, I declare: you are healed, and that lump disappears now!
  - Everything that comes from witchcraft—everything that comes from humans, whatever a person has done against you—against your health, your business, your work, everything a person may have done out of wickedness—we destroy it! We ruin it! We strangle it! We release the captives! Captive—we set you free! You are free, in the name of Jesus Christ!