



# REPENTANCE

## *A Changed Mind, Heart and Will*

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## Lesson #1 ZACCHAEUS

### NOTE TO THE TEACHER

In order to avoid confusion, we must know the exact meaning of Bible words. This is especially true with regard to the word *repentance*.

When one *repents*, it means he has had a *change of mind*. That change of mind affects:

- (1) His thoughts (that is, his intellect)
- (2) His heart (his desires)
- (3) His will (his actions)

So that you will remember that *repentance* means to *change the mind*, it would be well to remember two verses that clearly reveal the meaning. Matthew 21:28, 29: "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in my vineyard.' He (the son) answered and said, 'I will not.' But afterward he repented and went."

That is precisely the meaning of the Bible word *repent*. The son changed his mind. First, his thoughts were changed. He had thought that he would not go to work in the vineyard. His heart, however, told him that he was doing wrong by refusing to obey his father. So, after his thoughts and desires

were changed, his will was changed. And when his will was changed, he went to the vineyard. He had *repented*.

In our last series of lessons we studied *faith*. We learned that in order to be born again into the family of God, we must believe that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God and that He died for our sins. The person who believes these truths is said to have *faith*. But how did he get that faith? God gave it to him!

Just as a person exercises faith at the moment of the new birth, so he exercises *repentance* [a change of mind] at the moment of the new birth. Repentance is included in believing and cannot be separated from it. The Holy Spirit of God reveals to man that he is a sinner in rebellion against God, and that he is evil in nature. So man repents because God has gone before, showing that man what he is. Like faith, repentance is a gift of God.

It must be remembered that salvation is *all* of God. Christ Jesus died in our place. God, by the power of His Holy Spirit, gives us faith to believe in the Lord Jesus and to receive Him. And that same Holy Spirit is the One who causes us, at the moment of believing, to repent (have a change of mind, heart and actions).

**Scripture to be studied:** Luke 19:1-10

**The aim of the lesson:** To show that Zacchaeus truly believed in the Lord Jesus and received Him as his Saviour. This is proved by the fact that he repented (turned from his sin).

**What your students should know:** That Zacchaeus became a happy man when he turned to Jesus and away from his proud, self-centered life.

**What your students should feel:** A deep desire to turn to Christ and away from sin.

**What your students should do:**

**Unsaved:** Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and turn from his/her sin.

**Saved:** Show friends and family how they can turn to Christ.

**Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):**

1. A desire to see Jesus (Luke 19:1-3).
2. Meeting Jesus (Luke 19:4-6).
3. Repenting of sin (Luke 19:7).
4. Proof of repentance (Luke 19:8-10).

**The verse to be memorized:**

*The Lord Jesus said, "I say unto you, that . . . joy shall be in Heaven over one sinner that repenteth."* (Luke 15:7)

### THE LESSON

Heaven is a happy place! Our memory verse tells us of something that causes joy in Heaven. What is it? . . . Yes, there is joy when a sinner repents.