

## **A LIFE-CHANGING KIND OF FAITH**

Many talk the talk but don't walk the walk! Jesus warned, **"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."** (Matt. 7:21). Reality is seen in the doing. The fruit of repentance is seen in the doing which tells on the reality of a "Lordship" relationship. Jesus then went on to illustrate that the one who hears and acts on His word is like "a wise man who built his house on the rock" (Mt. 7:24).

In Matthew 21:29-30 Jesus in the form of a parable illustrated that true repentance is demonstrated not in the talking but in the doing. The first son said, **"I will not"** go and work but then he went; the second son said, **"I go, sir"** but then he did not go. The point being that only the one who actually responded in going did the will of the father. This is descriptive of a true repentance involved in saving faith. It involves a life-changing kind of faith.

John the Baptist said to the multitudes, **"bear fruits worthy of repentance"** (Luke 3:8). True repentance is expected to demonstrate itself in a changed life. In the parable of the Sower and the soils Jesus emphasized that it is the good ground (indicative of those with saving faith) that **"having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience."** (Lk. 8:15).

In Luke 8:21 Jesus said, **"My mother and My brothers are these who hear the word of God and do it."** Those in a personal (family) relationship with Christ are those who hear the Word and do it. This defines them!

In Luke 19:8-10 Zacchaeus cried out to Jesus calling Him **"Lord, Lord"** saying he would restore what he had wrongfully taken. In turn, Jesus said, **"Today salvation has come to this house..."**. Jesus was NOT saying Zacchaeus was saved by his works, but rather he had come to true repentance and faith which was demonstrated in his action.

Paul in summarizing the nature of his gospel ministry said he declared to both Jews and Gentiles alike **"that they should repent, turn to God, and do works befitting repentance."** (Acts 26:20). This is indicative of the right kind of faith!

The apostle John said the one who says, **"I know Him" and yet "does not keep His commandments is a liar"** (1 Jn. 2:4). John in his writings consistently brings out that a LIAR is one who claims to know the Lord but is lying about it.

In Revelation 21:8 John says that ***“all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”***  
In 1 John 3:7-10 John warns, ***“let no one deceive you”*** and goes on to say that ***“He who practices righteousness is righteous...He who sins is of the devil”*** and then concludes with, ***“In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest”***.

***“It is therefore faith alone which justifies, and yet the faith which justifies is not alone.”*** - John Calvin