

TOPIC: CALL TO REPENTANCE

We are all sinners, yet God has given us the opportunity to turn to Him and forget our evil ways. Repentance occurs when a sinner willingly decides to stop sinning and turn to God worshiping Him in truth and in spirit. Repentance occurs when we reconcile ourselves with God.

John the Baptist Calls for Repentance

After Malachi there was no prophet in Israel until John the Baptist came along. He was the forerunner for Christ. He preached **repentance**, because as he cried day and night to the people, “the kingdom of God is at hand”. The people heard him and those who repented confessed their sins to him and were baptised. Please note that baptism signifies wholesome cleansing and repentance.

Before the time of John, God had used different ways to persuade people to repent and resist sin. In the paragraphs below, we shall be looking at some examples in the Bible of people who repented from their sins; specifically King David.

King David’s Repentance

King David took Bathsheba, the wife of Uriah (one of his soldiers) and slept with her. And in a desperate move to cover his sin after impregnating Bathsheba, David masterminded the murder of Uriah in the battle field. Because of this, God became very displeased with David. He [God] sent Prophet Nathan to David, and Nathan used proverb to deliver the message of God’s displeasure. He told David that there were two men in his kingdom- one rich and the other poor. The rich man had so many sheep, goats, cows and other livestock while the poor man had only one animal which he treasured like his daughter. So one day the rich man had a guest, instead of him killing one of his many animals he went straight and snatched the only animal the poor man had and used it to prepare pepper soup for the guest. David became angry and swore to deal with such rich man. He was ready to throw orders to chop off the head of such a man. And then Prophet Nathan told him he was the rich man. Immediately David remembered and realised his errors, he became remorseful. He prayed for forgiveness. Psalm 51 is his song for forgiveness. God forgave him his sins.

In the parable by Nathan the rich man was David, the poor man was Uriah. The many animals owned by the rich man represent the many wives and concubines David had, while the only animal of the poor man was Bathsheba.

Moral Lessons

a. God is always ready to welcome a sinner to His fold

b. God hates those who always give excuses for sinning. God hates excuses.

c. When we fall we should rise again. David fell and he rose again.

EVALUATION

I. Explain the proverb by Nathan to David