

WORSHIP

SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

Happy Day, This is Amazing Grace, His Mercy Is More, O Come to the Altar, Greater Than

WELCOME

Did you make a decision last week that you regret today? What made you regret it?

WORD

Genesis 37:26-27 (READ THE ENTIRE CHAPTER FOR CONTEXT)

Judah said to his brothers, “What profit is it for us to kill our brother and cover up his blood? ²⁷ Come and let us sell him to the Ishmaelites and not lay our hands on him, for he is our brother, our *own* flesh.” And his brothers listened *to him*.

Genesis 44:18, 32-34 (READ THE ENTIRE CHAPTER FOR CONTEXT)

Then Judah approached him, and said, “Oh my lord, may your servant please speak a word in my lord’s ears, and do not be angry with your servant; for you are equal to Pharaoh...³² For your servant became surety for the lad to my father, saying, ‘If I do not bring him *back* to you, then ³³ let me bear the blame before my father forever.’ ³³ Now, therefore, please let your servant remain instead of the lad a slave to my lord, and let the lad go up with his brothers. ³⁴ For how shall I go up to my father if the lad is not with me—for fear that I see the evil that would overtake my father.”

In life, we regret some things we’ve done in the past. There are Bible characters that made mistakes, but some made the right response by correcting their mistakes later in life, while others did not (true repentance vs. fake repentance).

1. WHAT IS FAKE REPENTANCE?

Judas Iscariot was one of the Twelve disciples called by Jesus to follow Him. Some interpret his name to be Judas Kerioth, a town in the tribe of Judah (**Joshua 15:25**). The name “*Judas*” is the Greek form of “*Judah*”. As a disciple of Jesus, one would expect Judas to love the Lord. After all, he was with Jesus, ate with Him, saw Jesus heal the sick, etc.

But what did Judas do? He betrayed Jesus for a mere 30 pieces of silver, no more than the legal compensation for the life of a slave (**Matthew 26:14-16**). But before we judge Judas, think about how many times we betrayed Jesus for something even less. Judas eventually regretted his betrayal and returned the money to the priests (**Matthew 27:3-25**). Judas could have run to Jesus to ask for forgiveness after that. Instead, he just quit and took his own life. Why would Judas do something like that? Perhaps it was because Judas, the “treasurer” among the Twelve disciples, was a thief who stole from the money entrusted to him.

Sin hardens our hearts, and that’s probably what happened to Judas, too. That’s why all that Jesus taught did not penetrate his heart. If we allow sin to stay in our lives, it will harden our hearts; we need to encourage each other to obey God’s voice daily so this does not happen to us (**Hebrews 3:13, 15**). If you’re a Christian, you cannot continue living in sin. Sin blocks us from seeing the beauty of Jesus Christ.

Fake repentance is just remorse; it is sorrow for the consequences of sin. A truly repentant person is sorry he sinned and goes back to God; a remorseful person is sorry he got caught (**2 Corinthians 7:10**). Judas was someone who had fake repentance.

2. WHAT IS TRUE REPENTANCE?

Now we look at another “Judah” who demonstrated true repentance. Judah was the fourth son of Jacob and Leah, who gave her son a name that means “*praise*” (**Genesis 29:34-35**). Their family was not a model family. Joseph was Judah’s younger brother and their father’s favorite, who gave a bad report about his brothers to Jacob. As a result, Judah and the rest of his brothers hated Joseph (**Genesis 37:2-5**). It made matters worse when Joseph told them about a dream where his whole family worshiped him!

WORD (cont'd)

Jacob failed to do the right thing for his children because he favored Joseph. Judah had his reasons for treating Joseph the way he did. When the brothers wanted to kill Joseph, Judah convinced them instead to profit from selling Joseph as a slave (**Genesis 37:18-20, 26-28**). Judah at least had some decency to spare Joseph's life; but aside from the money, he also stood to gain from Joseph's disappearance --- Jacob might just favor him after Joseph was gone! Judah and the others did a "cover-up" for what they had done as Jacob mourned and refused to be comforted (**Genesis 37:31- 35**).

3. THE ROAD TO TRUE REPENTANCE

Imagine Judah with silver coins in his pocket and seeing how sad his father was; would that have changed something in him? Yet Judah doesn't just commit one mistake in his life. He got his widowed daughter-in-law, Tamar, pregnant (**Genesis 38:25-26**). For the first time, we see Judah acknowledge his wrongdoing, a very important turning point in his life.

Event	Age of Joseph	Time since Joseph was sold	Scripture
Joseph sold by brothers	17		Gen 37
Judah sins with Tamar	17+		Gen 38
Joseph made ruler	30	13 years	Gen 41
Famine after 7 years of plenty	37	20 years	Gen 41
Judah and brothers go to Egypt	~38	~21 years	Gen 42

Twenty-one years after they sold Joseph into slavery, the brothers had to travel to Egypt for the first time. Joseph, now a ruler in Egypt, ordered them to leave behind one brother in prison while the rest returned home. Joseph was testing his brothers; if they return, they had to bring the youngest, Benjamin, with them. What they did in the past to Joseph caught up to the brothers (**Genesis 42:18-21**). They had been living with this guilt for 20 years.

Jacob didn't want to send Benjamin, so Judah offered himself as the surety for Jacob's favored son (**Genesis 43:8-9**). When Benjamin was to be Joseph's prisoner, Judah intervened. He offered himself to be Joseph's slave instead of Benjamin. Though given a way out, Judah's words and actions show that he was a changed man. Although he again stood to gain the status of "favorite son" if Benjamin was no longer around, he no longer desired that. After 21 years, Judah finally did the right thing (**Genesis 44:16-20, 30-34**). He could profit himself, or he could bring joy to his father. Judah was willing to lose everything because he wanted to make up for the wrong things he had done. True repentance is a change of mind (heart) which results in a change of action.

Fake Repentance	True Repentance
Remorse with no change of heart	A change of heart leading to a change of behavior
Regret with no return	Returns to God to restore
Gives up and doesn't see God	Does not give up because of God
Leads to death	Leads to life

Joseph sees Judah's heart, reveals himself as Joseph, and instructs them to bring Jacob to Egypt! Jacob lived another 20 years; at the end of his life, he blessed Judah with something very much like Joseph's dream (**Genesis 49:1,8, 10**)! Best of all, Jesus came from the line of Judah, a broken man who returned to God. Follow the road to true repentance and go back to God (**Romans 3:23, Ephesians 4:30, 2:8-9, John 3:16, Isaiah 55:7**)!

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)

1. What have you learned about REMORSE and REPENTANCE?
2. Have you ever repented to God about something in your life? How did He lead you to a breakthrough after humbling yourself to Him?
3. What is one encouragement you can share with others after hearing this message?

WORKS

PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people all around you and throughout the world to come to real repentance and go back to God. With urgency, share Christ with all those you can. Do good works to everyone, that they may come to glorify God.

MEMORY VERSE

Isaiah 55:7

7 Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return to the Lord, and He will have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

WORD (cont'd)

WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives.

II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of public servants; repentance and salvation for government leaders and citizens for a Christ-centered Philippines.
- For legislators to promote and support bills and laws aligned with God's Word.
- War in Ukraine to end, loss of lives prevented.
- For the rest of the Israeli hostages to be restored to their families safely. For Israel's war with terrorists to end according to God's purpose and for His glory.
- For the civil war in Syria to end peacefully, protection for Christians and other minorities, and freedom from oppression for Syrians. Pray for the gospel to spread rapidly throughout the country.
- Pray for Sudan and persecuted Christians there; earnestly seek God's intervention to stop the bloodshed. Pray for freedom from oppression, that God's word and His people bring them comfort and hope.
- Earthquake victims in Burma, Thailand, other countries.

III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples.
- Elders, pastors, leaders, and families (holy, humble, harmonious, happy, heart-working).
- Ministries and churches expansion worldwide.

IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God.
- Righteous living.
- Salvation of family and friends.