



# High Value Living

# 5

Lesson

## Changing Direction

### The Message of Jesus

Jesus didn't just come to speak nice words. He came to get to the root cause of people's problems and to deal with the most basic problem of all - a broken relationship with God. He spoke some very strong words, especially against hypocrisy (putting on a religious front) and dead religion. He told us that it's not just outward appearances that God is interested in, but our heart — what's on the inside.

Jesus' whole message can be summed up in these words:

*"Repent for the kingdom of God is near!" Matthew 4:17.*

### What does "Repent" mean?

What does "repent" mean? "Repent" means to turn around, to change direction, to have a radical change in your thinking and lifestyle. It involves a genuine sorrow for your sins but it also means a total change of focus. To repent means turning from four things:

- \* **Turning from sin** (Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:5)
- \* **Turning from yourself** (2 Corinthians 5:15; Luke 14:26)
- \* **Turning from the world** (1 John 2:15; James 4:4)
- \* **Turning from the devil** (Acts 26:18)

But it is what we turn *to* that makes the difference.

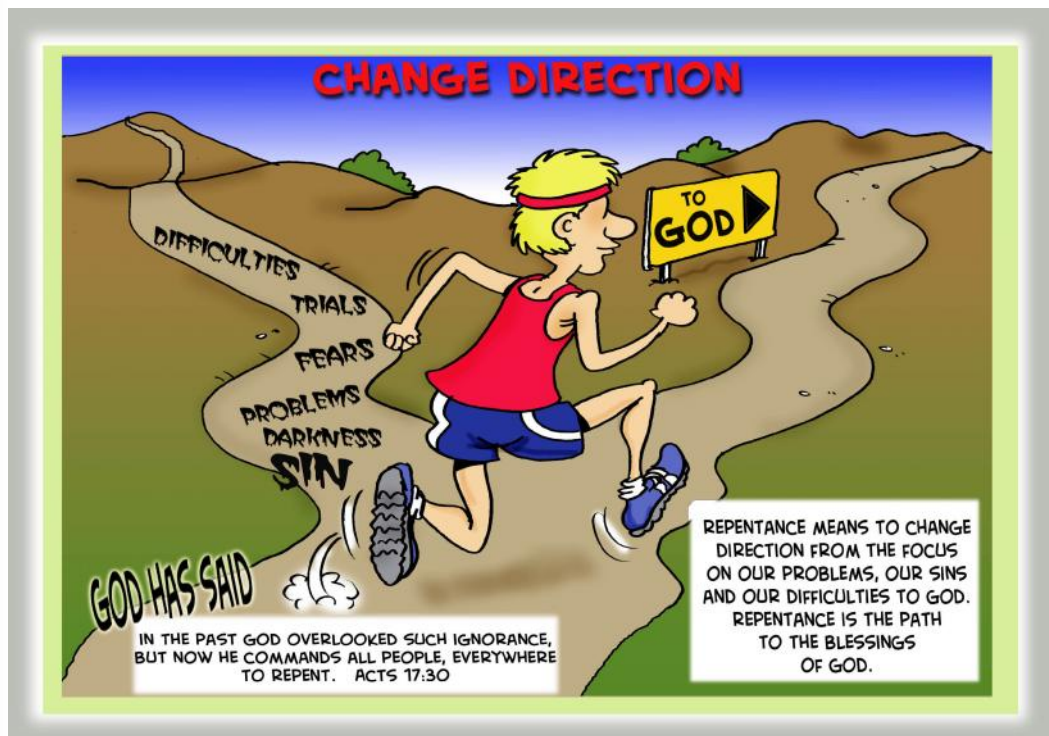
- \* **Turning to God** (Acts 20:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:9)
- \* **Turning to righteousness** (Romans 6:13)

God's arms are always wide open. He has taken the first step toward you in the sending of Christ; now you are required to take a first step toward him in repentance. This is what God is looking for in your life. Not just "being good", but having your life aligned with the plan God has for you. Not just "being religious", but being in a close, daily relationship with God. Not just on Sunday, but your whole life.

Repentance is the first step you take in personally receiving the salvation that comes through Jesus Christ. It is the gateway into all the blessings God has prepared for you. It causes great joy in heaven, as Jesus said...

*"I tell you that...there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents..." (Luke 15:7).*

# What Repentance Means:



**The Gateway to the blessing of God**

**Repentance means turning from the old life to the new life**



# Making the Truth Mine



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Write in your own words what this lesson has meant to you and how it will effect your life.

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## You can make a difference!

For this study to have its full effect in your life, we encourage you to:

- \* Read and digest the study - meditate on the Word of God.
- \* Put into action what you have learnt (James 1:22).
- \* Share the Word of God with others.

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