

Improper or Incomplete Repentance

by Paris Reidhead

The sin of unbelief is the root of all sin and the reason we don't experience God's best, leading to destruction and wasting of years.

Duration: 38:40

Scripture: Numbers 13:1-2, Numbers 13:25 - 14:12, Numbers 14:20-24

Topics: "Repentance"

Description

In this sermon, the speaker emphasizes that God loves us too much to let us get away with anything. His purpose is to make us like Jesus Christ and conform us to His image. If we refuse to submit to the circumstances and conditions that God allows in our lives, He will bring about new circumstances that we cannot escape from. The speaker refers to the story of Moses sending twelve men to explore the promised land, and how they were discouraged by the fortified cities and strong inhabitants. Despite forgetting the miracles God had performed for them, they failed to trust in His power and provision.

Transcript

You turn please to Numbers chapter 13 and 14. Now we're going to consider this portion of Scripture that's been read to us. You will understand the background is God's desire to bless his people.

God has great purpose to bless all of us but the problem is to get us blessable. There's much more for you than you've ever received. There's much more for me than I've ever received.

We've never exhausted the good things that God has planned for us and the reason that we aren't more richly endowed with the privileges and blessings that he's given is because he couldn't do it. His great problem with Israel was to get them blessable. He didn't have any problem getting them out of Egypt.

His problem was to get Egypt out of them. And his problem isn't to get you out of hell but it's to get that which made you a candidate for the pit out of your heart. And he discovered as we read this portion that there were times when they rebelled against the Lord.

And if I understand my life with any degree of insight and yours with something I might have gained from my own, this has been true of you as well and true of me. That we've rebelled against the Lord, against his dealings and against his working. We were all glad at a time to be out of the shackles and away from the stinging biting whip but to allow the Lord to complete his work and do all that he wants to do, this has been

a little more difficult.

The land of Canaan isn't heaven. If you've been thinking that I wish you'd change your mind. The hymns often teach us a great many wonderful truths but they also can confuse the issue.

And there has been a sense in which the Church has been impoverished by being taught that Beulah land and the land of Canaan is heaven and it isn't. The land of Canaan speaks for of a life of union. The Red Sea speaks of deliverance from the penalty of sin and from the sentence of death.

And Jordan River speaks of death to self and the fulfillment of God's purpose leading us into union with him. If you would like to see it as something pertaining with heaven, it's not heaven but it's the heavenlies. And in Ephesians 1 he tells us that he's blessed us with all spiritual blessings in the heavenlies.

Now this doesn't mean that we're to wait until we get to heaven to have these spiritual blessings but that we're to realize that this is a phase of relationship that is ours by virtue of our having been willing to go through Jordan, speaking of death to self, and coming up into the resurrection life of the Lord Jesus Christ on the other side of the river. Now here were some people that wanted the grapes of Eshcol but they didn't want to deal with the problems that were in the way. And they were unwilling and unprepared to meet God on his terms and so there had to be a considerable loss sustained by them.

I would like to say right now that the purpose in this series of messages is to emphasize to you again and to me as well that everything that God does he does for the broken in heart and the contrite in spirit. He has said that the broken heart and the contrite spirit he will not despise. But by inference he despises every other kind of heart and every other kind of spirit.

And the only kind that he can bless is the broken heart. The only spirit he can bless is the contrite spirit. My name is holy.

I dwell in the high and holy place with him that is of a broken and the contrite spirit. And the greatest difficulty that a person faces is brokenness. You and I are made on the same loom.

The woof may have been a little different but the warp is the same. And I am well enough acquainted with your heart is to realize that you're going to resist everything and so will I that will bring us to the place of being blessed. God just has to do major engineering for most of us to get us into circumstances from which we can't escape in order to bring us to the place where he wanted us to be so that he could bless us.

And if some of you are beginning to say oh he or she or this or that these circumstances and this conditions and you know what you'd like to do really is to change the circumstances and alter the condition but do you know the effect? If God hasn't done in your heart and mind through the circumstances and the conditions what he wants to do and we escape from them by some engineering of ours all we have done is force the Lord to either disown us and let us go or else to erect another set of circumstances with from which we can't escape.

Do you see?

It's as though the cow the young heifer isn't prepared to follow the lead and so that it takes three people one behind one on each side and if three won't do it we get six it's got to be moved just has to be moved and so it is with our stubborn hearts if we're not prepared to let God affect what he wants to through this

then he'll just bring that into play as the machinist would try to shape the steel and so he takes a fine stone and puts it on the wheel and begins to turn and he holds the steel against it but the steel tends to bounce and it won't cut and it won't submit to the wheel and the abrasion because it apparently is just such a character the nature that this wheel won't work well I suppose if it were too soft and useless and didn't have any value at all the machinist would throw

it away but my experience in the past has been that the machinist simply puts a wrench on the spindle takes the wheel off and puts a coarser grained one on then he holds the steel against it and when it wouldn't submit to the fine carburetor until I suggest to you that you recognize that God loves us too much to let us get by with anything and his purpose is to make us like Jesus Christ and conformist of the image of his son and if we won't bend on this wheel of circumstances then he has that wheel that he'll take out of the case mount on the spindle and against which we will be brought now there is this you should see to encourage your heart as we go into the scripture which might be unless you're prepared to meet God on his terms somewhat discouraging you'll understand that Moses was

instructed by the Lord to send 40 to send these 12 men into this promised land for a period of 40 days they found that it was everything that God had said it would be land flowing with milk and honey I've often tried to visualize streams of milk and streams of honey running down the mountainside but even the greatest enthusiasts for Israel would never describe it thus but it was a fertile land the cattle grazed on its hillsides the sweet flowers that grew in its ravines and along its brooks have made gave sufficient for the bees to have provided it with all the sweet the good the rich the blessed and it was a land that was everything that God had said it would be they came to the brook and there they found a bunch of grapes so large that they the best way to carry it was to simply put it

a straddle over a stick and on the shoulders of two men I've had a little difficulty believing that there was so heavy that it couldn't have been carried by one man but I rather think that this was to protect it so that the grapes wouldn't have been bruised and wouldn't have been hurt so that it could be shown just as it had been taken but even if it was that big well and good I'm not going to argue with it at all it was a happy land it was a joyful land it was a rich rich land and a blessed land and a land that could have been everything that the people of Israel longed for and wanted but there were giants in the land men the sons of Anak it was said that were tall now you might be interested to know that long before vitamins were available in their multiple form people weren't quite as

tall as they are today have you ever gone to a museum and seen the size of the uniforms worn by the American soldiers and to seen the dresses that were worn by women of a hundred and fifty years ago I don't want to say that it's all the vitamins are all to blame for it but certainly the American stature and frame seems to be somewhat larger so a giant probably would have been a person seven or seven and a half feet tall and I have seen several of this size in the tall stork people of the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan at any rate they seem to just tower over the Jewish people the Israelites that had come they knew that their sword with arm was longer and sword was sharper and that this was going to be a difficult thing but you actually know what happened they were afflicted with the sin that is

always popular have you realized there's one sin that is always in good standing you can have that sin and you'll never be embarrassed you'll always find company you'll always be justified it'll always be acceptable it won't hurt your social standing it isn't going to break fellowship for you it isn't going to embarrass you the only thing it'll do is ruin you you know what in that is it's the sin of unbelief it's the sin is described in Romans the Hebrews the 12th chapter when they the sin which did so easily beset them and several of

the translators have said this is the sin that is in good standing well it is my conviction that it is the root of all sin it is probably the sin of all sins and it is the sin that must be dealt with what is the effect of this as they looked at the

inhabitants of the land as they studied their fortified cities as they saw this muscles bulging on their sword arms and saw the length of their bow and the length of their arrows the only thing they could do was say we will be destroyed they forgot that God had performed ten miracles in bringing them out of Egypt they forgot that God had carried them about across the Red Sea they forgot that God had given them water in the desert they forgot that he protected them all of the blessings of the past were completely obliterated in their memories the only thing they could say was the problems of the present and the experiences of the past had absolutely no value to them as somehow because these people were big God was little and they were measuring their present situation not by what they'd

learned of God in the past but by themselves and what they would do if they were God in such a situation the sin of unbelief and consequence of this well it was terrific ten of them agreed together to report that it was a good land but they couldn't go up two of them said is Joshua and Caleb affirmed so eloquently God has taken away their defense and God has delivered them to us but the people sided with the ten I said the sin of unbelief is always popular it'll always get a crowd it'll always find support it'll always be justified it'll always be accepted the sin of unbelief but the result was they turned on those that said let us go up and the consequence they said we will stone Caleb and stone Joshua get rid of these men that are going contrary to what we want and what we feel we

should do and so right was apparently on the cross and and fire was on the throne and so often it seems that this is the case now my dear friend may I impress upon you today that if you have been kept out of the land of God's blessing it is because of this sin of unbelief you have said something like this there isn't any use for me to break there isn't any use for me to deal with my failure there isn't any use for me to confess my sin wait till he does wait till she does when they do then I will and so consequently moved away from the two that say meet God on his terms stand on his word step out in the direction of obedience and God will meet you and God will bless you and so if you have not entered into the best that God has for you whether it is something vile or something subtle it has

to come back to unbelief unbelief has kept you from breaking unbelief has kept you from bending unbelief has kept you from bowing you know perhaps the attitude is wrong you know the actions were wrong but you'll say I'll lose more by obedience than I will by continued disobedience and unbelief is the explanation and unbelief is the reason always this is the case inevitably it is so for instance if a person says well I I must have something position and I can't get it by recognition of my ability and merit so what I will do is tear down others I will become hypercritical I will just attack everyone because if I can prove that everyone is bad then I am proving that I'm good and those whom I attack must be smaller than me or I wouldn't attack them and consequently I must be bigger than they

are rather than arresting one's case in God's hand saying God will exalt in due time and give me all I deserve and all I need unbelief says take things in your own hands get your own rights insist on your own way you can take it with every sin that's been in the catalog of human iniquity and it all goes right back to unbelief and consequently when we see that these people have come from their 40 days survey and report to the people we can't they have allowed opened the door for every other kind of crime and sin as this happened with you have you come out of Egypt have you been forgiven of your past sins and yet somewhere along the line there's been a view of the land of blessing the land of promise the land of

victory the land of the fullness of Christ and yet you haven't entered in 10

days 10 weeks 10 months 10 years have gone by that you've heard these truths and you haven't entered in oh there's only one answer and that answer is unbelief it may have led to many other sins as it did and we'll see tonight in the case of Israel but this is the root of it unwillingness to believe that God is able to do what he's promised and what he is purpose to do well thank God there was a Moses there and thank God dear Christian friend that there's a greater than Moses on your side there's someone at the right hand of the father today representing me and representing you and holding us up before the father our names are written on his hands and he is there he's there before the father in your place in your step representing you and telling the father to be patient with you that he

knows that there was nothing in you but sin and uncleanness and that he is ministering he is working and that you will come just as Moses went into the presence of God in behalf of Israel here this time when they have refused to go in and God says to Moses listen I'll take away this people in the view I'll make a better a greater a larger people and the Moses says no no you brought them out you've delivered them you've extended mercy to them and it'll be to your shame it'll rob you of glory you'll be sullied by it you'll be hurt by it your glory will be smudged by it you can't destroy this people you must sustain them Oh dear heart today how glad you should be that you have a high priest that's interceding for you that's representing you do you realize if it weren't for that all of us

would be instantly dealt with the way Ananias and Sapphira were if it were not for the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is representing us the first time we lied to the Holy Ghost this is what would have happened the first time we made a vow that we didn't take this is what it would have transpired but we have one there that is interceding one that's pleading we have an advocate with the father Jesus Christ the righteous but do you understand that this the while there was forgiveness and there was escape from the sudden destruction of the entire land there was a pardon with a penalty unless any of you should begin to think lightly of this terrible sin of unbelief and its evil consequences in your life may I remind you this after this morning that the Spirit of God has made it perfectly

clear that they suffered a tremendous penalty sin always carries with it a penalty you understand that whereas forgiveness will draw the nail out of the board it doesn't draw the hole out it will take away the death in it but it won't take away the scar of it and so you can be sure of this that if in the past the Spirit of God has been pleading with you to deal with habits to deal with attitude to break before him then you have resisted him that you have acquired in this period of resistance damage that even God can't erase let it be understood that there is a continuing damage done to the human spirit by persistence in unbelief that even forgiveness can't remove the scars that were there will remain there and years afterwards if today you break today you've been today you know

forgiveness today you enter in when you are on the deathbed and about to meet the Lord you look back of those days that were before today when the Spirit of God was pleading with you and in stubbornness and rebellion you are unwilling to break you'll see the loss you'll see the shame you'll see the grief it caused your high priest and there'll be scars in your heart that even the blessing today and from today on can't erase sin is not a little thing and anything that keeps us from entering into God's best for us is an enormous thing and any attitude or disposition that you might have that grieves him whose name is holy that keeps you from entering into the land of victory and blessing in the fullness of Christ to be a channel for the overflow of his spirit is an enormous thing however

little it may be in the eyes of society or however little it may be in your eyes up until now it is enough for you to realize that the consequence of grieving God and robbing God of the freedom to be in you and through you what he wants to be has enormous consequences and so it was that these ten that came back that had said that they shouldn't go in worse were actually destroyed they had to be slain because they had led the people into such a great sin against the Lord the consequences of this were that there was to be not only the ten who sinned but the effect that it had upon others wasted years oh dear heart let us for a moment suppose that you are born again that your sins are under the blood and yet somehow or other you've been unwilling to deal with traits the Spirit of God has

shown you oh you've been in meetings you've been in conferences you've been in camp times when the presence of God was wonderfully real in God let the spotlight of his truth come into your heart and he showed you this but you got out of the atmosphere you went out of that sense of his immediate and wonderful presence and soon you had acquiesced to go home the same way you'd come and the result the result was that when you got back you were a kind of a spiritual typhoid Mary you remember the case I believe it was New York City if I'm not mistaken someplace in these that they found that they had dealt with all the sources of typhoid they dealt with the milk and the water and everything that could bring it until finally they found there was one woman one person and she was known as typhoid

Mary because she herself hadn't had the disease but everywhere she went people became infected she'd work in a home and they were infected she'd go to a store and they'd get typhoid she was a carrier and suppose it is that some six seven eight ten years ago or twenty or thirty or forty years ago you learned that there was a life in Christ where the Spirit of God could fill you and Christ could live in you his life but you've just never entered in it's just been a little thing maybe a habit maybe an attitude maybe a disposition I don't know but you know and God knows what it is but look at all that been infected by it ten people kept a whole generation from going in have you been able to keep people from going in sowing disbelief sowing rebellion sowing the heart attitude have you been in

the effect of these ten and causing others to stumble and others to fail of entering into God's blessing for them you can't sin alone you can't sin alone it's going to hurt someone it's going to hurt someone dear besides hurting him whose hands have been pierced for you it's going to hurt others and so it is that we discover that these ten that came back had caused the entire tribe the whole nation to fall and they're under the sentence God said you can't enter in because of your stubbornness and because of your unbelief and so what do we find the message this morning is improper or incomplete repentance and so in the 14th chapter in the 40 to the 45th verses we discover that the people rose up early in the morning and get them into the top of the mountain saying lo we we be here and

we'll go up into the place which the Lord has promised you see they felt so sorry for their loss they felt so sorry for their play they were so grieved that they couldn't go in they were so unhappy about the fact that they'd lost all of this that instead of dealing with it the way they ought to they simply took things in their own hands and without God's guidance and without his presence they said they were going to make up for it there's a right and a wrong way to deal with sin the wrong way is the way of the arrogant heart the way of the egotistical mind the way of the self-sufficient the way of the one who says I'm going to turn over a new leaf volume 10 page 490 this is usually the way with the new leaf business it done it again and again and again and all it has ever brought is

further frustration and despair no no it isn't a new leaf Israel said we're going to turn over a new leaf so if God won't let us go into the land we'll go in on our own we made a mistake oh yes how easy it is to make a

mistake how easy it is to say I've made a mistake how hard it is to say I've sinned mistakes you see are just a little lack of judgment this wasn't a mistake this was a sin and my friend the only way that you can ever deal with that which grieves God is to call it what God calls it the sin of unbelief the sin of rebellion the sin of stubbornness the sin of discouragement the sin of disappointment whatever it is call it by the name that God gives it they didn't do that oh we've aired yes we made a mistake yes poor judgment yes but you see their hearts were stubborn evidenced

by the fact that they still wouldn't submit to Moses they still wouldn't submit to God's Word they were going to rectify it in their own way and so instead of breaking before the Lord instead of coming before Moses and Aaron and throwing themselves down saying we've sinned we've sinned and done this great evil in God's sight what will God have us to do they took things into their own hands and so the next day they got up on a hillside looked over across the valley saw the people drew their swords out and said lo we dashed down the hill and the Amalekites and the Canaanites were destroyed them completely and so it is that improper repentance is instead of breaking before God it is to simply deal with the circumstance and deal with the situation how many times you see a person is being

pressed by the Spirit of God into a situation that God wants to use for their good by causing them to break before him and they don't break before God they simply adjust to the situation this is what Israel tried to do they tried to adjust we're living in a day when the psychologists and psychiatrists tell us that the end of all being is adjustment this is source of is absurd the most maladjusted person in history as far as any social evaluation is concerned was our Lord Jesus Christ but there's only one proper adjustment that he had and that's the one that you and I must have he looked into the eyes of his father and said father what will thou have me to do he broke he broke and you and I are being coached and counseled by our generation to adjust to our failures and adjust to our

circumstances and adjust to our dispositions and it will lead us to nothing but further grief and heartache God didn't say adjust to this person and finally acquiesce to this situation God didn't allow the person to come into your life with a problem to come into your life in order for you to make an adjustment to the person or problem he's used the person he's used the situation he's used the circumstance to press us to make an adjustment with him and the only adjustment that's a proper adjustment is one of utter breaking and absolute bowing and complete bending before the Lord and this is the only way for blessing in Israel wouldn't do it they continued to transgress even when they were trying to undo their previous sin they were unwilling to meet God on his terms and so they thought

that they could somehow make it up by doing in their own strength what they had been unwilling to do with God's power and God's anointing God asked for brokenness dear heart not for bargaining not for self-confidence and not for braggadocio God doesn't ask you to grit your teeth and clench your fists and set your jaw and say from now on I'm not going to do that thing no no no that isn't what God asks of me or of you God asks of us that we recognize that in us in our flesh there's no good thing God asks of us that we recognize that our habits of unbelief and our disposition of disobedience in the whole past is but the proof of our utter utter spiritual defilement it was I told you Reginald Wallace who saw it and said that the happiest day of his Christian life was the day that it finally

dawned upon him that he couldn't live the Christian life he broke for up until then Reginald Wallace the son of missionaries and himself a missionary and an outstanding Christian leader was absolutely confident that he could face the Amalekites and he could deal with the Canaanites and so he was rushing down this hill and rushing down that hill and coming back in failure only to go to a conference and there to hear

something and then to set his jaw again turn over a new leaf and rush into further failure but one day it dawned on him one day his eyes opened and one day he broke I can I can't live the Christian life I can't be anything else and I am I can't do any other than I've done I am full of sin when he broke then God could work for him oh have you come to the place dear heart when

you realize that you can't live the Christian life but only he can have you I wonder the evidence is going to be given to your heart with what we do in the next two minutes and whether you are of that number that rushed down the hill or whether you are of the number that casts themselves at the feet of God and brokenness you're going to determine as we bow our heads for a closing word of prayer don't try to say you haven't failed we know you're too well you know yourself too well and above all God knows us too well don't try to say you haven't had unbelief you know and I know and God knows you have don't try to say that you haven't had a desire to be better than you are because if you've been born of God you have God knows it but the question is what have you done about it what have you

done about your past failures what have you done about seeing what have you done about evil disposition what have you done about tongue what have you done about imagination have you just gone and said Oh Lord forgive and I'll do better next time well you haven't done better next time or have you just gotten to the place where you say well that's my besettings then there isn't anything even you said confess it anymore what have you done about it this is the question have you been rushing down the hill of good intention to meet the enemy in the battle of in the valley of failure come creeping back up to a good intention again and then to fail what have you done what have you done have you been like Israel you didn't meet God on his terms improper repentance what have you done about it well

I'll tell you my dear there's only one thing for you to do and that's to face the fact that God has used these circumstances and situations to show you that in you there's no good thing no good thing uncleanness and failure and sin and iniquity and that's all there is but have you been willing to admit it have you been willing to deal absolutely with all sin with all that's there that grieves him have you have you been willing to become an utter brokenness before the Lord absolutely dealing I'll tell you the ones God's blessing the ones he's taking into the land this is these are the company the ones that are before him in brokenness for he said the broken in the contrite hearty spirit he will not despise the sacrifices of God were broken in the contrite spirit the one that dwell with him

in his high and holy place are them that have a broken in the contrite spirit now I know this that if you haven't allowed the pressures and circumstances and failures and sins of the past to bring you to brokenness then you have been deceiving yourself you've been robbing God of glory you've been a hindrance to the cause of Christ oh so many terrible terrible things have resulted from unbeing unbroken but if you're prepared to come today just as you are on the basis of absolute brokenness completely at the end of yourself willing to deal with all sin to confess it and forsake it and then to tell God that it isn't just to be forgiven but that he must give you himself and his life then I know this that he will not despise the broken in the contrite spirit what will you do about it I wonder

today if there are those that have said yes yes yes this is me my life my experience I've seen the promise but I've been unable to enter in through unbelief but I am at the end of myself I am grateful that I have a high priest that's praying for me I'm grateful my heart is still burdened and concerned thank God he's not let me to the place where I'm no longer care I care and today I want to indicate that I am utterly utterly at the end of myself and I'm prepared to deal with everything God me and bow before his feet helpless to take come with it all my need and to take all his provision if this is your desire would you stand right where

you are now oh it's hard on Sunday morning to stand but for me to have told you that God honors brokenness and not to give you an opportunity would be to

rob him and you would you stand right where you are and say yes I'm utterly at the end of myself thank you thank God yes are there others yes thank God you remain standing please are there others heads bowed eyes closed are there any others yes young men and women upstairs here listen one thing I want to just ask one thing now I know that if I did what I ought to do I'd be standing I haven't stood but oh I know my need pray for me would you raise your hand this will help you yes I see it God bless you yes yes I see it I'm not standing but if I did what I ought to do I would be I want you that are still seated to face the issue are there others yes I see it God bless you are there others yes yes we are now let us stand for benediction and prayer we love thee too much our father to say give

us unbroken peace we trust thee too much to say let us go at ease but we say to thee now for the sake of thy dear son continue to work and if it would be better for some to lose all taste for food all appetite for fellowship and to go into the valley of despair and grief over their failure and sin because they have not minded thee or whatever it is our dealing do that Lord deal with us as we have need for those that have known brokenness known the working of the Holy Ghost in their lives known forgiveness and pardon and cleansing Oh let grace and mercy and peace and joy and speakable and full of glory be their portion and for all with whom our dealing continue to deal until we can enter into the fullness of thy love for us may we go praying go sensing thy presence may the love of God the

Father the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the communion and fellowship of the Holy Ghost be and abide with us now and always amen

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