

God Call the Church for Repentance (Telugu)

by Zac Poonen

The sermon emphasizes the importance of repentance, godly examples, and turning away from sin in order to have a firm foundation for our lives.

Duration: 1:09:53

Scripture: Luke 15:4

Topics: "Daily Repentance", "Personal Sanctification"

Description

This sermon emphasizes the importance of daily repentance and self-judgment, highlighting the need for individuals to constantly turn away from sin and judge themselves rather than others. It stresses the significance of living a life of continuous repentance, acknowledging personal faults, and seeking God's cleansing. The message also underscores the need for churches to be filled with individuals who are righteous through daily repentance, as defined by Jesus, rather than those who do not need repentance.

Transcript

Here again this year. In the olden days, I remember I used to go to the convocation. Six days we had twelve meetings.

Now we have twelve meetings in three days. So, many of you who are working don't have to take leave for so many days. But the important thing is not to hear.

Jesus spoke about a foolish man who heard but didn't do. His house is like a house without a foundation. So, we can hear so much and understand so much.

But if we don't do it, there will be no foundation for our house. So, we have been talking about a firm foundation. And that has got this seal.

God knows those who are His. Those who name the name of Jesus must turn away from sin. Everything else that you do will be valuable if you first turn away from sin.

See, in these operating theatres, when a surgeon goes to do an operation, they scrub their hands for 10-15 minutes. We wash our hands just for one minute to eat the food. You can't do an operation like that.

You have to keep on scrubbing for a minimum time. You think it is clean. They say, no, no, no, you have to clean some more.

Because they are putting their hand inside somebody's stomach and they don't want to kill that man with the germs in the hand. That is the picture the Lord has spoken to me also. That man is only putting his hand into somebody's stomach.

You are going into somebody's heart. Then make sure that your heart is clean of all the germs, otherwise the words will be polluted. See, even if you send the purest water through a dirty pipe, it comes out dirty.

The water that God gives is always pure living water. But it has to come through a human heart and mouth. And most of the time, with most preachers, the heart pollutes that water.

So the water becomes dirty. And a lot of God's people are getting dirty water in many parts of the world. There are many things that can pollute the heart.

Dirty thoughts, love of money, seeking honor. Many, not an impure relationship with women. So many things.

So a true servant of God must cleanse his heart always. So you are saying, I washed my hand yesterday, we still need to wash it today. So, if I wash my hands, then I must also cleanse my heart.

See this verse in James chapter 4, verse 8. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. James 4.8. You know like the prodigal son, he came towards his father, the father came towards him. And then it says, when you are drawn near to God, you got to do two things.

First of all, cleanse your hands. You sinners, there is sin, the external things in our life. And then purify your hearts, you double minded.

He is writing to believers. Your hand must be clean, your heart must be clean. That means your outer life must be clean, your inner life must be clean.

The hand people can see, the heart people cannot see. So he is saying, the part of your life other people can see, must have a good testimony. And what they cannot see, must also be pure.

So, you must be able to see the part of your life that people cannot see. Externally, we have to cleanse ourselves from any sinful behavior or in anything we do. But inwardly, it speaks about the danger of being double minded in our heart.

That means two desires. One desire to glorify God and the other desire to seek some honor for myself. There is so much of honor seeking among Christian workers.

They are all double minded people. Single minded is to say, Lord, I only want the glory of God, nothing else. So, when we see something wrong in our external life or inner life, what should we do before we draw near to God? See what it says here.

Verse 9. Be miserable and mourn and weep. Have you ever obeyed that exhortation to be miserable and to mourn and to weep? And he says, don't laugh so much. Let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

A lot of believers, they laugh much more than they weep. There is nothing wrong in laughing. Your laughing is very good if your heart is pure.

Then it's very good. You can laugh and joke and all that. But if your heart is not pure, then you should be weeping more than laughing.

I believe in laughing and being happy. But not if my heart is impure. Not if I am double minded seeking something for myself.

Then we must be miserable and mourn and weep. And like that we humble ourselves, it says in verse 10, in the presence of the Lord. We humble ourselves and say, Lord, I am sorry for the things I see in my life, I want to get rid of.

I want to speak especially to young people here. Do you know all the disciples whom Jesus chose were below 30 years old? He chooses young people. Because he can mold their life.

Before they get married. Before they decide which way to go in life. I am not saying God cannot use old people.

But it's more difficult. It's much easier with younger people. In the New Testament, almost all the people whom God chose were all under 30.

Some like Timothy were probably only 19 or 20. So when you are young, you must have a right sense of values of God's kingdom. You must not look at bad examples of preachers and follow them.

If you ever meet a preacher who loses his temper and gets angry, don't go anywhere near him. And don't listen to him. If you ever see a preacher who is more interested in money than in leading people to godliness, don't go anywhere near that person.

Don't listen to him. If you ever see a preacher who is more interested in money than in leading people to godliness, don't listen to him. You must compare every preacher with Jesus Christ.

I have been doing the same since my younger days. I used to compare every preacher in India with Jesus Christ. Do they believe in the values of Jesus Christ? Do they live simply? Does he hate money? Does he believe in godliness and lead other people to godliness? Is he a humble person? Does he mingle with poor people or only with rich people? These are the questions I used to ask myself.

These are the questions I used to ask myself. I never met one or two such preachers in this whole country. I respect all the great preachers.

But I never respected most of them. And that protected me. Because I did not follow all those people.

Today, so many young people are following the wrong preachers. And they become like them. You know, if you follow somebody very closely, you will become like him.

Even an elder brother can go wrong. You see, that is the last message in the book of Revelation. To the churches.

The last messages of Jesus to the churches are in Revelation 2 and 3. It was not primarily to the church. It was to the messenger of the church. That means one of the main elders of the church.

In those days, the church has never had any pastors. No pastor, no bishop. The apostles appointed elders in every church.

And usually, one of the elders had the gift of preaching the word. The other elder may have a gift of shepherding people. Both are needed.

But the brother who had the gift of preaching the word was called the messenger of the church. So, in every church, there would be usually one brother among the elders who had the main gift of speaking the word. And he would have a very big responsibility.

Because he is the one standing up in front most of the time. Everybody is listening to him. So, if he is a good man, the people will become good.

But if he backslides, then the people backslide. That is what we see in the seven churches. The Lord told the apostles, John.

The apostles were like people who had authority over many churches. And they were elders to the elders of churches. So, John was like an apostle.

And God told him, I want you to send a messenger to that messenger in that church. And to this one and this one, like that seven churches. And five of those elders were thoroughly backslidden.

They were not all equally evil. But one was more evil than the other. With four of those five backslidden elders, the Lord says, there are some good things in you.

But still, this particular thing is bad in you. And because it is bad in you, it is affecting your church. And then there was one elder in Laodicea.

There was nothing good in him. It was a terrible church. But they had a lot of money.

They probably had a big building. Many many hundreds of people. But a thoroughly backslidden elder.

And backslidden people. And the Lord tells that church, I am standing at the door and knocking. Can you imagine Jesus standing at the door of a church, knocking, trying to come inside? Can you imagine Jesus standing at the door of a church, knocking, trying to come inside? There are many churches like that today.

They are reading the Bible and singing songs inside. But they don't obey the word of God. They have no holiness in their life.

Most of the people are not born again. And even those who are born again are backslidden. What is the result? Jesus is outside.

But they are singing about Jesus inside. And he tells them, wake up, I am on the outside trying to come inside your church. And the church is not willing to receive him.

So he says, if anyone will open the door, I will come into him. If the church does not open the door, maybe there are one or two people here who will open the door. But there were two churches in Smyrna and Philadelphia, who had wholehearted elders.

They suffered a lot of persecution. But they were faithful. And because they were faithful, the church was also a good church.

See, very often, a church becomes like its leader. See, sometimes I see some believers' children, three or four children of the same family, all well behaved, all very respectful to older people. And what do I say? I say, these children must be having very good parents.

And then I see some children in other families, three or four children, they are all badly behaved. They have no respect for older people. What do I say? I do not say they are bad children.

I say, their parents are bad. They have not brought them up properly. Because our children demonstrate what we have done as parents.

If I can watch your children for one day, I can tell you what type of parents you are. Because you can fool everybody in the church, but you cannot fool your children. They know.

They know how you live. They know how daddy and mommy speak to each other at home. The people in the church do not know that.

They always see you speaking very nicely to them. But in the home, the children hear the real person. So, the way our children grow up is a demonstration of what we are ourselves.

So, we should not worry about what other people think about us. What do your children think about you? Sometimes, children will speak the truth. One sister once told me, in one church, she said, Brother Zack, my ten-year-old daughter, comes and listens to you along with us.

And one day, she heard you say, that when you get angry, the devil is sitting on your head. So, one day, I got angry with my husband. And my little ten-year-old girl said, Mommy, Satan is sitting on your head now.

And she said, my ten-year-old girl helped me to repent. Sometimes, it is good to listen to our children. So, the church became like the elders.

The elders like a father and the children became like them. The elders became like the elders and the church became like them. It is so difficult now to find godly people leading churches.

Either they are interested in money or they are interested in honor and position. It is very difficult to find people who are not interested in money and not at all interested in honor or position or title or anything. So, what should young people do when they don't find good examples? I tell them, don't get discouraged.

When I was a young Christian, I used to work in the Navy and I used to go to an assembly. But I could not find really godly, wholehearted examples to follow. So, I said, Lord, what shall I do? I don't find anybody here who can say, follow me as I follow Christ.

Nobody had the courage to say that. Everybody would say, don't look at me, look at Christ. So, I said, Lord, what shall I do? I don't find any good examples of the leaders of this church.

Sometimes, people make that excuse. They come and tell me, oh, Brother Zack, there are no good leaders in our church. I say, I also faced that as a young man.

And the Lord said to me, if you don't find a man to follow, you look at me. Look unto Jesus and run the race. That one sentence helped me so much in my young days.

And I made a principle in my life. If I find a godly man who is following Jesus, I will try to follow his example. But if I don't find such a man, then I will follow Jesus, that's all.

So, you don't have an excuse. If you don't find a godly man in your church, don't worry, Jesus is there. Look at him and follow him.

And once in a while, if you find a godly man who is following Jesus, who can say like the Apostle Paul, follow me as I follow Christ. Then you are really blessed that you can see a man in flesh and blood who is following Jesus. And that will give you faith that if he can be like that, I can also be like that.

Yeah, we have to be a good example. And if you are a married man, then you have to be an example to other married people. See how I live with my wife.

See how I bring up my children. Follow me as I follow Christ. So, if godly men are very rare, godly families are much more rare.

So, you young people have a tremendous challenge in front of you. Say, Lord, I want to be an example for other people. In Andhra Pradesh, I may not be a great preacher, but I want to live like Jesus.

I am not able to preach, Lord, but I can bring up my children in godly ways. I met some brothers like that. They cannot preach at all.

They don't have that gift. But they brought up their children in a very good way. They can say, follow me the way I brought up my children.

You bring up your children. Then there are other people who can preach so well. But you look at their children.

They are all wayward. Which is better? It's better not to be a preacher, but to have good children. So don't concentrate first of all on being a preacher.

Don't seek to be an elder in a church. Be a servant. And say, Lord, I want to live a good life myself and build a good family.

So, what did the Lord tell these five backslidden elders and their churches? To all of them, he said, repent. See, Revelation 2 verse 5. To the messenger of the church in Ephesus, write, Remember from where you have fallen and repent. And to the next church in Pergamum, in verse 12.

He says in verse 16, repent. And to the next church in Thyatira, in verse 18. Verse 21, I gave her time to repent.

And to the next church in Sardis, chapter 3, verse 1. Verse 3, remember what you have received and repent. And the fifth church in Laodicea, in verse 9. In verse 14, Laodicea church. In verse 19, be zealous and repent.

So, it is the same message that the Lord gave to those five backslidden churches. On the day of Pentecost, when Peter preached the gospel. He said, repent.

But there, he was speaking to unbelievers. So, in the New Testament, from the day of Pentecost, the first message was to unbelievers, repent. But by the time you come to Revelation, it is the church which is

being asked to repent.

That is the greatest need in all churches in Andhra and India, is to repent. Repent means, turn around. Turn around from facing the world and sin.

And turn towards God. If you read the Old Testament prophets, All the prophets had one message. Repent.

Israel, repent. Turn to God. Stop worshipping the idols.

That is the message of every true prophet of God, even now. We have to repent from sin. Turn from our love for the world.

And we need to hear that again and again, till we have turned completely. Nowadays, in the preaching of the gospel, We don't hear the word repent so much. I don't have cable television.

But I bought it for one year in my house. Because I wanted to listen to all the Christian preachers who were preaching, to hear what they were preaching. I wanted to find out, what are my fellow believers in India listening to? And I heard all of them.

And I never heard one of them saying, you must repent of your sin. You must repent of your anger. You must repent of lusting with your eyes.

You must repent of your love of money. Repent of your bitterness. All the preachers.

For one year. I never heard one of them preaching. I said, what are these people preaching then? They are none the way.

No wonder the Christians in India are in such a poor condition. They are not being told what Jesus told the church. They are being told in the television, God will bless you.

Just give me your money. And God will bless you. And you will get a lot of money.

And God will heal you. What is the use of being healed of sickness if you have sin in your life? Sin is like a torn shirt. Sickness is like a torn shirt.

And sin is like cancer. And sin is like cancer. And sin is like a torn shirt.

Sickness is not as serious as sin. That's why, do you know that Jesus never preached one message on healing? No. Some people ask me this question.

Brother Jack, why don't you preach on healing the sick? I said, Jesus is my example. You show me one message that he preached on healing in the whole Bible. I have studied the Gospels for 50 years.

I have never found one sermon on preaching, on healing. He healed thousands of people. But he never preached a sermon on healing.

Today is the other way around. Thousands of sermons and books on healing, but hardly anybody getting healed. It's all the opposite of Jesus Christ.

Then I tell them, You tell me one episode where the apostles are preaching on healing. I studied it, studied it, studied it. And I found one verse in James which says, If somebody is sick, anoint him with oil and pray for them.

Out of all the thousands of verses, there's one verse. So I say, I'll do that. If somebody is sick, they come, I'll anoint with oil and pray for them.

But the apostles also never preached on healing. But they healed the sick. Then what did Jesus preach on? He preached on faith.

Love one another. Love God with all your heart. Humble yourself like a child.

Keep your mind pure. Don't lust with your eyes. Love your enemies.

Don't judge other people. Treat other people the way you want them to treat you. And that's what the apostles also preached.

Put away all anger. Put away the love of money. Forgive one another.

All the episodes are about this. Bring up your children in the ways of the Lord. Husbands and wives, love one another.

That's what I'm going to preach. I'm going to preach what is in the New Testament. Not just imitate all these American preachers.

Why do I say this? Because so many people are being deceived these days by a false gospel. I will give you one bit of advice. Don't listen to a preacher who does not tell you to repent.

Turn from sin. If you have cheated somebody of money, Give it back. You say, I don't have so much money.

Give whatever you can every month. Once one poor man from some village wrote to me. He said, brother, I've got a big debt of 30,000 rupees.

But I get so little, I can't pay it back. I said, can you pay back 10 rupees a month? Okay, you start paying 10 rupees a month. In one year, You will give back 120 rupees.

It will take you 250 years to finish your debt. You're not going to live up to 250 years. You may live only another 30, 40 years and die.

But God will see your faithfulness. How you kept on paying 10 rupees every month. And he will say, well done, good and faithful.

So I saw your heart. You didn't clear your debt, but your heart was right. There are many things we cannot do.

But God sees whether you have an intention to do it. Even if you don't have the money to repay your debt. Or to pay back something you cheated from somebody.

God is not seeing whether you have the money or not. God is seeing whether you have an intention to give it back. So you don't have to live in fear and bondage.

Now, what I'm telling you is in the Bible. See, 2 Corinthians chapter 8. I always tell people, don't accept anything I say. Unless I can show it to you in the Bible.

And don't accept anything anybody else says. Unless I can show it to you in the New Testament. 2 Corinthians 8 verse 12.

It says here, if the readiness is present. Willingness is present. Then God accepts you according to what a man has.

And not what he doesn't have. Not more than strength. God sees how much you can do.

And he accepts it as if you have done the whole thing. Because he sees your intention. That is a tremendous encouragement to all of us.

Do you have a good intention? For example, do you want to live at peace with other people? No. Even though you try to live at peace. Some brother or sister may not want to live at peace with you.

Don't worry. You've done your part. You have tried to live at peace.

But that fellow is a troublesome fellow. He only creates quarrels. Forget it.

Don't worry about him. You don't have to keep on going after him. You tried to live at peace with him and he is not interested.

Forget about him. Go and do something else. So we don't have to condemn ourselves when we can't do something.

If you have a desire to do it. That's what God sees. Do you have a desire to turn from sin? And from the world.

The first step to that is to acknowledge your sin without blaming anybody else. I always quote the example of Adam. It's very important to go to the example of Adam.

He did it the wrong way. He is our forefather. And we have got his poison within us.

What is that poison? To blame somebody else for our sin. You see that with children. You ask your little boy.

Why did you have a fight with your sister? She hit me. That is the truth. But it's not the full truth.

The full truth is this boy hit her first. But then he won't say. She hit me.

Correct. But did you hit her? Yes. That is from Adam they got it.

And from you and me. To put the blame on somebody else. You see that here.

When God asked Adam. Did you eat from this tree? Verse 11. Now if somebody asks you Did you eat that or not? Only two answers.

Yes or no. One word. No.

Or yes. But Adam doesn't say that. He has three points.

Number one Lord. This woman. She is the cause of all my problems.

Number two. You gave me this wife. So part of the problem is with you also.

And then three. I also opened my mouth and ate it. That is not the way to confess sin.

That is the way Adam confessed sin. He put the blame on others. Why God gave me such a wife? Or such a husband.

What can I do? That is not the way to confess your sin. Or say I was under so much pressure from my office work. That is why I lost my temper.

Why did you get angry at home? Oh brother there was so much pressure in the office today. So I lost my temper. That is Adam.

The right way to say it is. Why did you lose your temper? I am an evil man. That is why I lost my temper.

Such a man will get victory over his anger very quickly. But the one who is blaming somebody else. Always will find some excuse.

Why did you lose your temper today? Somebody banged into my scooter. And that time I was under pressure. So I lost my temper.

Always there is an excuse to blame somebody else. And I want to tell you this. This is Adam's habit.

If you are like that. I can tell you you will never get victory over sin. But let me talk about repentance.

The first step is to take the blame 100%. You know David when he sinned with Bathsheba for nearly one year. He never confessed his sin.

Only when his child was born. Nine months later and the prophet came and said. Then only he confessed his sin.

But then. He writes Psalm 51. That is a complete confession.

Oh God it is only me. 100% my fault. I have sinned against you.

It is not her fault that she was just bathing over there. No it is my fault. 100% my fault.

I should not have looked there. Forgive me. When I got up from my bed.

I should have prayed. I should not have just wandered off. Take the blame.

Develop the habit of taking the blame. But you say 90% is the other person's fault. Okay 10% is your fault.

You take the blame for that 10%. That is the first step to repentance. That is how the thief went to paradise.

He took the blame. I deserve this punishment. Jesus had come to paradise.

So we must acknowledge our sin. You know when John wrote the letter to those elders. It was not a private secret letter.

John said. The Lord told John take it and read it in the middle of the church. So here is the elder brother in Ephesus sitting there.

And the messenger from John is reading the letter. The Lord says to you. You have left your first love.

Repent. Everybody is listening. There is a verse in the Bible which says.

If an elder sins. 1 Timothy 5. Rebuke him publicly. So that everybody will fear.

So that is what all the letters were read publicly. People must know. There is no partiality with God.

Just because he is an elder brother. God does not cover up his sins. No.

If he sins. It must be shown. He is a sinner.

And why should he get offended with that? Why should he say no no no. Do not read it publicly. Just tell me privately.

That is what King Saul told Samuel. When Saul had disobeyed God. 1 Samuel 15.

Samuel came to convict him of his sins. Saul said. Do not make a big noise about that.

Come and tell me privately. And come with me. Just let people think everything is alright.

No. Samuel said. God has forsaken you.

You know. There is a great temptation in us. To get honor.

Even when we have sinned. Do not seek honor when you have sinned. Say.

Lord. That is my fault. Like David said in Psalm 51.

That is my mistake. You must be willing to confess your sin to your wife. See.

In India. We think that. The husband is like a Maharaja.

He never confesses his sin to his wife. We have to confess. To our children.

If we have hurt them. You have to confess to your servant at home. When you sinned against her.

You have to confess to your wife. You call her some bad word. You realize afterwards.

You should not call another human being. By such a name. Maybe she did the work.

In a dirty way in the kitchen. You say you dirty pig. How do you work? Because she is a servant.

As you go away from their kitchen. The Lord will say to you. Are you a Christian? Go back and apologize to her.

You say no. How can I apologize to my servant? I tell you. God will forsake you.

I decided many years ago in my life. I will readily apologize to anybody. Even if I don't think it is wrong.

But he says. Brother Jack. You hurt me by what you wrote.

I say brother. I am sorry. Please forgive me.

God gives grace to the humble. And I have learned from my life. God has given me tremendous grace.

He gives me grace to control my mouth. When I am tempted to get angry. He gives me grace to control my eyes.

To keep it pure. He gives me grace to keep my heart pure. He gives me grace not to run after money.

Because I decided. I will immediately confess my sin to God. If I see little bit of love of money in my heart.

And that can come to any of us. Sometimes even without knowing. Our hand got dirty.

We touch something. And it was dirty. And our hand became dirty.

That happens to all of us sometimes. You put your hand somewhere. And afterwards.

There was so much dirt there. Love of money is exactly like that. Without knowing something.

I have started loving money now. What do you do? Immediately go and wash it off. Go to God.

Say Lord. I see little love of money there. Please forgive me.

Every little thing. Supposing you heard something good about somebody. Something good happened to somebody.

And you found a little jealousy in your heart. Because something good has happened to somebody. Go to God.

Say Lord. I am sorry. I should be happy if something good happens to one of your children.

Why am I feeling sad? Why are you feeling sad that that person's daughter got selected to medicine. And your daughter did not get selected. Okay.

Your daughter did not get it. But his daughter got it. Praise the Lord.

That is my brother's daughter. Why are we unhappy? When you feel jealous like that. You got to go to God.

And say Lord. You know what you should say? What should you say? Lord. I am an evil man.

Like Paul said in Romans 7. I am a wretched man. Lord. I should be loving that person.

He is my brother in Christ. But instead of that I am jealous of him. Oh what an evil man I am.

Please forgive me. Cleanse me. If you say like that a few times.

You will be free from jealousy one day. But you keep it inside and keep it inside. And you tell some story.

Oh they must have given money to get admission. Why tell all these stories? Why not say Lord. There is jealousy in my heart.

You know. We have this habit of blaming other people. Without even knowing all the facts.

We have to repent of it. We have to acknowledge sin when we see it in ourselves. And we must also decide.

I must not judge the other person. See it says in 1 Corinthians 4. There is a command here. 1 Corinthians 4 verse 5. Do not go on passing judgment before the time.

Do not judge people. God says there is a time when I will allow you to judge people. And that is when the Lord comes.

When the Lord comes. Then you can judge everybody. Why? Because when the Lord comes.

He will show you certain things in that person which you did not know. He will show you the hidden motives in his heart. And he will show you all the private things in his life which are hidden.

Then you can judge him. But now you cannot judge him. Because you do not know what is in his heart.

He may be doing something good in secret. You do not know. Many many Christians disobey this command.

Do not judge others. So repentance means. I judge myself.

But I never judge other people. Is not that simple to remember? I judge myself. But I do not judge other people.

The children of Adam are not like that. They judge other people and they do not judge themselves. What does it mean to be born again? It means to turn around.

To repent. So if all the people of Adam are going in one direction. They never judge themselves.

They judge others. To turn around means. Now I judge myself.

And I do not judge others. I have probably preached this for 30 years. Everywhere I go I preach it.

I try to practice it. Sometimes by mistake. I have judged somebody.

And I say Lord I am sorry. I slipped up and fell there. I should not have done it.

You know even though we are grown up. We may sometimes trip and fall. It can happen.

But we get up immediately. So be careful. Supposing you accidentally judge somebody.

Glory to God. Say Lord I am sorry. We do not know enough about his private life.

How can you judge him? So the Lord says wait. When I come. I will show you everything about that person's life.

And then you will be surprised. You have judged a man who was a good man. You thought he was bad.

But he was very good. So I do not want to be ashamed when the Lord comes. So dear brothers and sisters.

Take this one message with you. When you go away from here. The Lord is calling everyone in the church to repent.

And we must live in that continuous repentance. Because God will show us more and more things in our life. That we have to repent of.

How shall we describe a good church? Now there are many ways in which people will describe a good church. They sing well. Or they all sit and listen very quietly.

Those are not the marks of a good church. See Jesus' definition of a good church. Luke chapter 15.

Luke 15. You know this is the story of a man who had a hundred sheep. Verse 4. One sheep went astray.

What does he do? He leaves the ninety-nine. And goes after that one that was lost. That is the ninety-nine are a picture of the church.

And that one person has gone astray. Bringing him back is telling him to repent and come here. How does Jesus describe these ninety-nine sheep? Have you read that verse? Maybe you have not noticed it.

How does he describe them? Verse 7. Ninety-nine righteous persons. Righteous persons are those who need no repentance. That is Jesus' definition of a good church.

It may be ten people. It may be a hundred people. Or two hundred.

But a good church is where all the people sitting there don't need repentance. You say, how is it they don't need repentance? Because they are repenting every day. If you are a person who takes a bath every day you don't need to take a bath.

Because you are taking it every day. You don't need somebody to tell you to take a bath. You are doing it.

So if you are repenting every day you don't need repentance because you are cleansing yourself every day. And maybe you are cleansing yourself many times a day. This is the mark of a good church.

That everybody who sits in the church is repenting every day that means anything they see in their life during the day which is unchrist-like they confess it. They don't blame wife, husband, nobody. Lord, it's me.

I'm sorry. Cleanse me. That is Jesus' definition of a righteous person.

What is Jesus' definition of a righteous person? There it is. Somebody who does not need to repent. You mean there is no sin in him? Yeah, but he repented.

He repented 15 minutes ago. And maybe later on this evening he will repent again of something else. I find in my life that sometimes I have to repent many times in a day.

I'm not repenting of adultery and murder. Sometimes it could be just a little selfishness or a little love of money or a little pride I'm very alert. You know that even you know how we put these mosquito nets so that even one mosquito does not come inside the bedroom? Would you like to have one mosquito in your bedroom? It's difficult to sleep even if there is one mosquito.

So I'd like to sleep in a room where there are no mosquitoes. That's why we put these mosquito repellent liquids and all, plug it in and then close the door. That's how we must be with sin.

And what about tomorrow? Again, you have to put the mosquito repellent and dry them all out. And what about next week? Again, you have to put the mosquito repellent and dry them all out. Because if you open the window even slightly in the evening they'll come in.

And what about tomorrow? Again, you have to put the mosquito repellent and dry them all out. So that is how sin is. We have to repent if I don't want one mosquito in my bedroom I don't even want one small sin in my heart.

If you are as careful about sin in your heart as about mosquitoes in your bedroom you know that you should have been a holy person long ago. But we are so careful to drive out the mosquitoes not so careful about this little selfishness this little jealousy this little bitterness. So brothers and sisters listen to the word of the Lord.

Hear what the spirit is saying to the churches. Repent. Repent.

Turn around. Judge yourself. Stop judging other people.

Let's remember that as we go. Let's pray. While our heads are bowed in prayer I want you to think about all that you heard this three days.

It doesn't matter if you don't remember everything but will you pray one prayer Lord make my life a life of daily repentance and let me completely stop judging other people and let me start on the road of judging myself. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and help me to be a disciple of Jesus. Amen.

I also want to pray now for there are many people here who have asked me to pray for sickness or some other problem in your life. So I don't have time to pray for all of you individually but if you have a need in your life maybe for healing maybe you are a newly married couple and you want God to bless your home or you are looking for a job or you are having some problem I want to pray for you. Close your eyes and if anybody who has a need I want you to raise your hand and I will pray for you.

While your hand is raised just tell God your need quietly Lord I am raising my hand because this is the need in my life and tell God that need right now and say Lord I believe as prayer is made for that need that need will be met because the fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much before God and prayer in the name of Jesus is mighty and effective Heavenly Father you see those who are raising their hands now and you know everybody's heart you know what their need is it may be sickness and healing maybe some other problem in their life or in their family I pray that you will do a miracle for them in Jesus name Lord Jesus come down upon them in the power of your Holy Spirit and do a miracle for them yes Lord and give them the assurance that you have heard their prayer we thank you that you will do this in Jesus name Amen please put your hand down Thank you

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