

# Apply The Word

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## Message Info

### Title:

Life Through  
Repentance

### Speaker:

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### Date:

September 11, 2022

### Scriptures:

Luke 13:1-9

**Theme:** Life flourishes at repentance and Jesus is working to see us turn.

**Introduction:** Saul of Tarsus was a gifted young man with a bright future. He was sincerely convinced of the theology of the Pharisees and was very active in their activities, including in his persecution of the burgeoning Christian church, such as with Stephen (Acts 7). Yet in Acts 9, we meet a very different man. He meets the resurrected Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus and his whole life is changed. What he had formerly condemned and punished he now celebrates and preaches. He *repented* of his former life and found true life in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Here are 2 truths that demonstrate the connection between repentance and life:

### 1. The need for repentance

Humans always assign meaning to events—it's inescapable. The question is whether or not we are assigning the right meaning.

In Luke 13, people approach Jesus to get his interpretation of two events where people died, one through unjust authority and the other through a terrible accident. Jesus' response was startling: their deaths are not exceptional, but what we all deserve for our sin and rebellion.

Today, people often appeal to karma to explain why 'what goes around, comes around,' thus showing how we still assign meaning to events and that meaning has some kind of spiritual component.

We need to assign the right meaning to events; and given how pervasive human sin is, none of us should be shocked when we face tragedy. We should see that every day provides us all with fresh opportunities to repent.

### 2. The nature of repentance

Repentance translates the Greek, *metanoia*, meaning, "to change one's mind." That change comes after our sinful behavior, as we recognize its sinfulness, rue it, and seek to change our behavior.

True repentance occurs deep within our souls, and it is something for which we need the grace of God.

The parable of the fig tree demonstrates the mercy and patience of God in offering us opportunities to repent. He is at work to see us saved from destruction.

### Questions:

1. What do you deserve from God and why do you deserve it?
2. Have you trusted in Christ and repented? How have you experienced his goodness?
3. How would you like to grow in repentance?

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