

Matthew 3:7-8

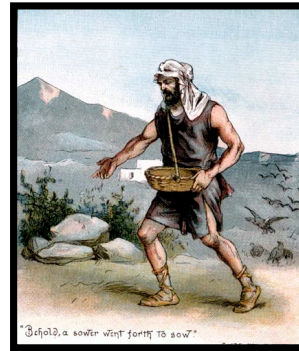
“But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, ‘You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bear fruit in keeping with repentance;’”

Not all repentance is the same.

There are a variety of responses to God's Word

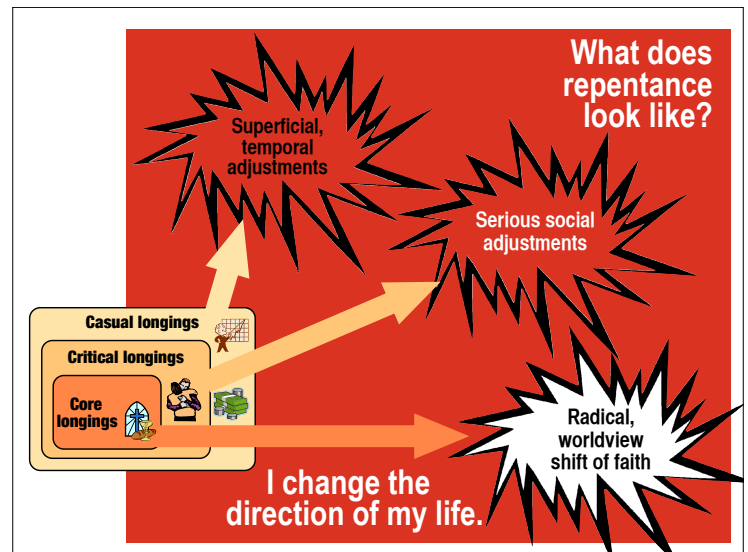
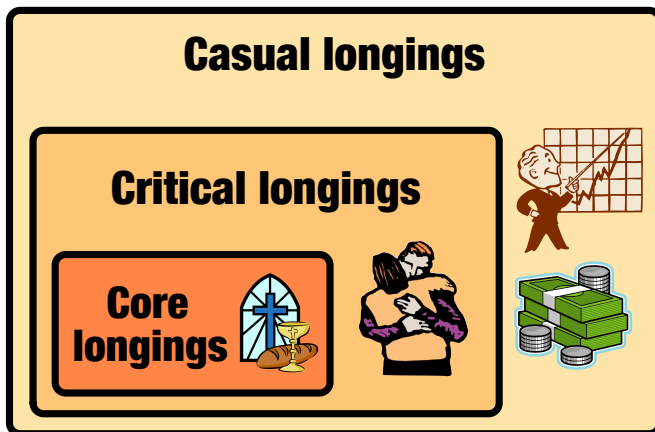
Matthew 13:3-23

The Parable of the soils



- ✓ Alongside the road (not rooted)
- ✓ On the rocky places (not hardy)
- ✓ Among the thorns (not a priority)
- ✓ On the good soil (produces fruit)

Levels of human hope



True Repentance passes through deep insight to appropriate action.

Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the sons



- ✓ Autonomy (leaving home)
- ✓ Worldliness (living it up)
- ✓ Pain (feeling the heat)
- ✓ **Insight** (seeing the light)
- ✓ Commitment (charting a path)
- ✓ **Action** (returning home)
- ✓ Reunion (experiencing grace)

Some repentance options

Luke 15:11-32

The Parable of the sons



- ✓ **Casual repentance** - I will ask my father for more money and make better decisions with it.
- ✓ **Critical repentance** - I will visit my father and get advice.
- ✓ **Core repentance** - I will move home.

Jonah 2

"1 Then Jonah prayed to the LORD his God from the stomach of the fish, 2 and he said,

"I called out of my distress to the LORD,
And He answered me
I cried for help from the depth of Sheol;
You heard my voice.

3 For You had cast me into the deep,
Into the heart of the seas,
And the current engulfed me
All Your breakers and billows passed over me.

4 So I said, 'I have been expelled from Your sight
Nevertheless I will look again toward Your
holy temple.'"

5 Water encompassed me to the point of death
The great deep engulfed me,
Weeds were wrapped around my head.

6 I descended to the roots of the mountains
The earth with its bars was around me forever,
But You have brought up my life from the pit,
O LORD my God.

7 **While I was fainting away,**
I remembered the LORD,
And my prayer came to You,
Into Your holy temple.

8 Those who regard vain idols
Forsake their faithfulness,

9 But I will sacrifice to You
With the voice of thanksgiving
That which I have vowed I will pay
Salvation is from the LORD."

10 Then the LORD commanded the fish,
and it vomited Jonah up onto the dry land."

Lessons from inside a fish

1. **Feeling the heat does not always lead to seeing the light.**

- Jonah's focus seems stuck on Jonah's comfort.
- Jonah is responding to God as HIS Savior.

2. **We can be confused as to who serves who.**

- Jonah's call involved serving God's purposes not Jonah's comfort.
- Repentance is not about my comfort so much as it is about God's heart.

3. **Repentance is superficial if it does not reach the heart, change the mind, or impact the behavior.**

- Jonah's heart does not seem to change.
- Jonah benefits from God's heart but does not share it.

4. **God's grace is not limited by our poor response.**

- Jonah will be used by God but will not find joy in the experience.
- How does this line up with Jesus's teaching?
Matthew 18:23-35 The ungrateful servant.
Matthew 6:15 God's conditional forgiveness