**8:31-25 – Repentance: Turning from Sin to God**

**Definition of repentance**

* **The definition**
* **Getting right with God: Ends estrangement**
  + **Estrangement is the cessation or reduction of a previously existing relationship between family members, often resulting in little to no communication for a prolonged period. It can occur due to various reasons, including conflict, abuse, or differing values, and may involve one party wanting to end the estrangement while the other does not.**
  + **Estrangement = to arouse especially mutual enmity or indifference in (someone) where there had formerly been love, affection, or friendliness” (Webster). Repentance ends this, esp. between God and man**
* **Often involves time**
  + **Rev. 2:4-5, 21; 3:1-3; 17-19; Prodigal Son; Israel**

**What repentance is and is not**

* **Not: Simply a change of mind**
  + **The “root fallacy”**
  + **The usage: “usage determines meaning”**
  + **Testing it in Scripture**
    - **Lk. 17:1-4**
    - **Mt. 12:42**
      * **Jonah 3:3-10**
      * **More than a change of mind**
  + **It includes that**
  + **One possibility: Heb. 12:17 – Found no place, with Isaac**
  + **Gen. 27:30-40 – No change of mind**
* **Is: To avoid or to end God’s temporal judgment; it is never connected to eternal life**
* **Job – An unexpected example**
  + **1:21-22 WOW!**
  + **2:4-5 The challenge**
  + **2:10 An instrument of Satan; Job = Wow again**
  + **2:13; 3:1 = Bad idea**
  + **35:16; Prov. 10:19**
  + **Job 36:5-17, 24; 37:23-24**
  + **Job gets it – 40:1-5; 42:1-6**
* **Fruit of Repentance - Lk. 3:3-14 – Necessary in Israel (Mal. 4:4-6; Mk. 1:1-5,14-15; Acts 3:19-21)**
* **Repentance is never in John, despite the command to preach it everywhere – Lk. 24:46-47**

**Usage**

* + **Contextual Influence: The meaning of a word can change based on the context in which it is used. For example, the word "bank" can refer to a financial institution or the side of a river.**
  + **Pragmatics vs. Semantics: While semantics focuses on the inherent meaning of words, pragmatics examines how context affects meaning in communication.**
  + **Examples of Usage Impacting Meaning**
  + **Idiomatic Expressions: Phrases like "kick the bucket" mean to die, which is not evident from the individual words. The meaning of “gay”, the meaning of “bad**
  + **Cultural Variations: Words may have different meanings in different cultures or regions, such as "boot" meaning a type of footwear in American English and a car trunk in British English.**

**Conclusion**

* + **The way words are used in various contexts significantly shapes their meanings. Understanding this relationship is crucial for effective communication and interpretation in language. How is repentance used in the Bible, the New Testament?**
* **It includes a change of mind, but it’s more – Lk. 3:3-14**

**What repentance does**

* **Avoids or ends temporal wrath**
* **Restores the relationship**
* **The issue of forgiveness: Forgiveness is personal, not judicial. A believer is justified, but may not have fellowship-forgiveness – 1 Jn. 1:9 = beginning**

**Who repentance is for**

1. **Israel: Centuries of disobedience**
2. **Believers – Rev. 2:5-7; 20-22 (Time involved); 3:2-5;**
3. **Gentiles who are estranged; the role of idolatry is a focus Acts 17:2-3, 29-31**

**Why is it confusing – Assumptions, not distinguishing the audience**

* + **Like assumptions about salvation or the good news Mk. 1:15**
  + **What some passages sound like, e.g., Acts 17; 20:21**
  + **The value of John**

**Illustrations of repentance - Job, The Prodigal, and the book of Jonah**