“His Unmistakable Call To Repentance”
Harlene’s Question From Luke 15

But What If The Young Man Takes His Daddy for a Ride, And **Returns To The Far Away Country** For More Wild Living?

Answer: Did he really repent?

“meta” + “noia” = Change and “the mind”
A Stern But Certain Call

Vs. 3 – “Unless you repent, you will likewise perish.”
Perish? See John 3:16, 1 Corinthians 1:18

Unless you change your mind about sin, you will “perish.”
* means more than simply “die”
* opposite of salvation; utter, eternally lost!
But Wait! No One Is Perfect! So Repentance Makes the Difference!

**Repentant Heart**
- Acknowledges the sin
- **Despises** sin; it’s what Jesus died for
- Broken in heart *(Psalm 51:17)*
- Resolves to seek forgiveness *(1 John 1:9)*

**Unrepentant heart**
- Denies the sin
- **Defends** the sin that Jesus died for
- Continues all the more
- Rejects correction

(e.g. We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable)
At the **Onset** of Jesus’ Ministry

“The Kingdom of God is at hand; **repent**, and believe in the Gospel” (Mark 1:15).

“...Jesus began to preach saying, “**Repent**, for the Kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matt. 4:17).

Repent **FROM** sin; turn **TO** God!

“I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (John 14:6).
Luke 19:8-9 – “But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, half of my possessions I give to the poor, and if I have cheated anyone, I will repay it fourfold.”

Luke 18:18-30 – “One thing you still lack; sell all that you possess and distribute it to the poor, and you shall have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me.” But when he had heard these things, he became very sad, for he was extremely rich.”
At the Conclusion of His Preaching Ministry

“Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem” (Luke 24:46-47).

The call to repent saturated the ministry of Jesus, beginning to end!
Onset of Early Church Ministry

“...Brethren, what shall we do? Peter said to them, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:37-38).

“Therefore repent and return, so that your sins may be wiped away” (Acts 3:19).
Repent from **What**?

“Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived. Neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor homosexuals, nor sodomites, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners will inherit the kingdom of God. **And such were some of you.** But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God”

(1 Corinthians 6:9-11)
How Did These Lost Come Into Church Fellowship?

Confess, Believe the Gospel message (Romans 10:9-10).

Accepted Jesus (John 1:12) Have you?
Repented of their sins (Acts 2:38, 41)

Critical insight: Saving faith leads to action!
Matthew 7:24-27
“He who hears these words of Mine and acts on them will be like a wise man...”
Why Do People Hold Back?

Self-righteous – “I’m special!” (Rom. 3:10)

Salvation by works – “I can do it myself” (Ephesians 2:8)

Redefining the terms of salvation “I’m not sinning!” (Isaiah 5:20).
And Repentance Can Be Required By The Lord Of Entire Churches!

**Repent**, or your witness will suffer! (Revelation 2:5, 2:16, 2:21, 3:3, 3:19)

Excellent service to the Lord **does not negate** continued sin in other areas.

Page 3: The Church’s Continuing Task:
(9) **Self-Criticism.** The church, if it is to remain healthy and fruitful, must accept the responsibility of constructive self-criticism.