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**Reading: Acts 17v22-23,v30-34**

The same command was given to all men to repent, some mocked, some wanted another chance and others believed.

On Mars hill there was an altar to the unknown God. We are living in a country that do not know God. The children today do not hear of Jesus and Calvary.

Is God known to you? Is He real to you? Is He part of your life?

The people understood there was a higher being to be worshipped. Creation tells us there is a God and He is a powerful God.

Paul is going to tell them of the God they ignorantly worshipped.

The command to repent is universal for every man, woman, boy and girl. The gospel is more than an invitation, it is a command that cannot be avoided.

[“Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest”](#) (Matt 11:28)

What does it mean to repent? What do we repent from?

[“For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God”](#) (Rom 3:23).

Doesn't matter how good you are, how rich you are, how many times you come to church or how many times you pray you are still a sinner. David was a man after God's heart, but he still said, [“I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me”](#) (Psalm 51:5)

There is no need to teach children to sin – it can be seen at a young age. Adam sinned so all the human race is a sinner.

If we are sinners and God is holy to be right for heaven we need to repent. More than saying sorry but rather turning away from sin and to God. We need to trust in Him and believe in him to have our sins forgiven. Needs to be a point in our life when we repent.

Can you look back to a time when you turned away from sin and turned to Christ?

The proof that God can forgive sins is that Christ died and rose again. He had no sins and could satisfy God in relation to sin. He entered death voluntarily. He was [“Declared to be the Son of God with power by resurrection”](#) (Rom 1:4)

We can be right with God and have our sins forgiven because Christ died. A few accepted the Lord Jesus died for them and they could have the salvation and an assurance of going to heaven. They stopped thought of human effort and accepted Christ's death was enough.

**Reading: Luke 23v33, v39-43**

Two thieves on the cross in their last hours, facing the same condemnation and ended in two different destinations.

“Be sure your sin will find you out” (Num 32:23)

“Sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:15)

Sin must be judged in the sight of God.

These men had been found out by their countrymen yet, even facing death one would still mock the Lord Jesus Christ. What a blessing that the other thief realised with his last breathe that his sin must be punished. He realised that the man in the centre was different.

“Led as a lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb” (Isa 53:7)

There is coming a day when all his foes will be diminished by the word of His mouth. With His voice He could raise the dead. “Lazarus come forth” (John 11: 43)

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God has raised Him from the dead thou shalt be saved” Rom 10v9

The thief realised the cross was not the end for the man on the centre tree.

Have you ever thought of paradise, the Father's House, the place He has gone to prepare? It is beyond human understanding. The Lord Jesus will be in paradise. The one who went to the cross to die for you. The one who shed His blood on the cross will be in the centre in glory.

No matter the life the thief led, he trusted Christ and that made him fit for heaven.

**Reading: Matthew 25v1-13**

Ten virgins were all expecting to go to the marriage feast yet they had prepared differently and had different results.

The Lord Jesus Christ has promised He is coming back. Before He comes to the earth He will come to the air. Those who have died in Christ and those who have believed and are still alive will all be caught up.

All ten virgins thought they would get in but only five were ready.

If the Lord Jesus came tonight would you go? Are you ready?

His coming will be so sudden it will be too late then to prepare.

What preparation is required?

To repent of our sin

To leave our own devices

To accept the finished work of Christ for your sins

The blood is in the basin – The price has been paid.

You need to apply it to your life – you need to trust Him.

Five went in and the door was shut, five knocked and were turned away.

The gospel tells you you can be saved but can only promise you now.

[“Behold now is the accepted time, behold now is the day of salvation”](#) (2 Cor 6:2)