

REPENTANCE – MORE THAN A MOTION!

MATTHEW 3:1-12

October 4, 2026

Truths about Repentance

1) Repentance begins when I recognize MY SIN.

Matthew 3:1-2

- Repentance begins in the head; I must recognize my sin.
- Matthew 3:2, "Repent of your sins and turn to God..." (NLT)
- Repentance requires a change in the way we think about our sin.
- Repentance begins when I stop defending my sin and start agreeing with God about my sin.

2) Repentance requires much more than RELIGIOUS ACTIVITY.

Matthew 3:7-9

- We can be religious without being repentant.
- We can go through religious motions without surrendering our lives.
- There is a warning about those who have confidence that they are God's people, "Don't confuse religion with a relationship."

3) Repentance changes the HEART.

Matthew 3:8

- Repentance is surrender to God, not trying harder, or promising to do better.

4) A changed heart eventually produces a CHANGED LIFE.

Matthew 3:8

- Don't tell me you have repented; show me you have repented.
- The change isn't necessarily instantaneous or perfect, but the direction changes.

5) True Repentance is SURRENDERING to the KING

Matthew 3:2, 11-12

- John is preparing people for King Jesus.
- Repentance isn't merely stop doing bad things. Repentance is the King has arrived, get your life ready for His rule!