Repentance

Introduction:
A. It is not easy to bring men to repentance — too interested in “saving face”.
B. It was not easy to bring the Jews to repentance. (cf. Matt. 11:21; 12:41).
1. They could see need in others. (vs. 2,4).
2. They could not see own need. (vs. 3,5).
C. Jesus’ admonition contains four significant words:

Discussion:
I. “Repent” – the Meaning of Repentance.
A. It is not:
1. Mere regret and/or admission of sin. (cf. Matt. 27:3,4)
2. Mere sorrow for sin. (2 Cor. 7:9).
3. Mere quitting of sin.
   a. Suppose man left wife and family, later comes in sits at table without a word?
   b. Do think prodigal son could have come home without confession and asking forgiveness?
B. It is:
1. A “change one's mind or purpose … for better, and amendment” (Vine)
2. A change of mind prompted by godly sorrow. (2 Cor. 7:10; cf. Matt. 5:4).
3. A change of mind followed by reformation. (Matt. 3:8; Acts 26:20).
   a. Not a cheap “I am sorry” to regain approval of brethren, but a real change.

II. “Except” – the Necessity of Repentance.
A. No way to correct sin against God without it. (Rev. 3:5,16,21,22; cf. Ezek. 18:30-32)
B. No way to correct sin against brethren without repentance. (Lk. 17:3,4).
C. No way to “cover sins” without repentance (James. 5:19,20).
1. Can't “sweep under rug”.
2. Need to confess to affected parties.

III. “Perish” – the Alternative to Repentance.
A. To “perish” is forever. (Jno. 3:16; Matt. 25:46).
B. To “perish” is not God's will for us. (2 Pet. 3:9; Ez. 18:23).
1. God sent Son to call us to repentance. (Matt. 9:13).
3. God gives motive and opportunity for repentance. (Rm. 2:4; 2 Pet. 3:9,15).

IV. “You” – the Personal Nature of Repentance
A. What if the Galileans and the 18 were “sinners above all” – the ones present still had to repent!
B. The need to repent is universal because sin is universal (Acts 17:30; Rom. 3:10, 21)
1. We cannot repent of anyone’s sins but our own.
2. We can call others to repentance, but we cannot repent for them.
3. Other people’s need for repentance does not remove my need.
   a. “What I did is nor worse than what he/she/they are doing?”
   b. “If I need to repent, what about he/she/them!”
   c. “I will when he/she/they repent”!

Conclusion:
A. Are guilty of unforgiven sin?
B. Do you believe what Jesus said twice in our text?
C. Are you willing to repent and obey today?