

Jesus came to call sinners to repent

When Jesus heard that, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. But go and learn what this means: ‘I desire mercy and not sacrifice.’ For I did not come to call the righteous, but sinner, to repentance.” *Matt 9:12-13*

When Jesus heard it, He said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinner, to repentance.” *Mark 2:17*

Jesus answered and said to them, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinner, to repentance.” *Luke 5:31-32*

Mark 2:17 The repentant person—the one who recognizes he is a sinner and who turns from his sin—is the object of Jesus’ call. The person who is sinful but thinks he is righteous (self-righteous) refuses to acknowledge his need to repent of his sin.

Jesus came to call sinners to repent:

- 1) Stop sinning immediately—stop what you are doing (sinning)
- 2) Turn around and completely go the other way
- 3) Change
- 4) Turn your mind and your heart from sin to Jesus (180° turn)

Luke 5:31 “who are well”—Those who think they are whole, do not seek healing. This is the importance of admitting first that you are sick (admit you are a sinner). You must admit to your problem first before you can change. Then change = Repent from your sin. When you turn to Jesus, you immediately are sinning less and turning away from sin. The explanation is as follows: The greatest sin a person can commit is rejection of the witness of the Holy Spirit about Jesus. The following sin that occurs is the sin of unbelief and rejection of Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. By accepting and receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are immediately turning away and repenting of these two great sins.

People who are sinners who come to Jesus know they are lost in darkness and cry out for spiritual light. They know they are “sick and need healing,” i.e., they recognize they are sinners and need a Savior. They know they were once blind and now they see (J 9:39-41, J 9:25). Sin of unbelief is sin #2 because this can always be corrected and repented of by accepting and receiving the testimony of the Holy Spirit. Sin of rejection of the Holy Spirit is sin #1 because this will always → person rejecting Christ → nonforgiveness of sins → Hell.

Jesus began His ministry with a message of repentance:

From that time Jesus began to preach and to say, “Repent, for the kingdom is at hand.” *Matt 4:17*

And Jesus ended His ministry with a message of repentance:

Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things.” *Luke 24:46-48*

Understand the surest thing in the universe is the existence and truth of Jesus Christ. That He is who He says He is. Scientifically and mathematically the surest fact is the existence and resurrection of Jesus Christ, more sure than any known fact of science. Jesus said, "Because I live, you will live also." (John 14:19). Your resurrection is guaranteed because of Jesus' resurrection. Therefore, you can believe in your resurrection into heaven 100%. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life... whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die." (John 11:25-26). "If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead you shall be saved." (Romans 10:9). Our salvation is our hope and our promise from God. God cannot lie. God promises us eternal life with Him. Therefore, hold on to it, it is our anchor in life, it is our victory over death. Remember, God is God of the living, not the dead. Our resurrection into heaven is as sure as the resurrection of Jesus Christ Himself.