

DAY 09

TUESDAY,
FEBRUARY 7

"Gospel repentance is a grace of God's Spirit whereby a sinner is inwardly humbled and visibly reformed." —Thomas Watson

"Yet even now," declares the Lord, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments." Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and he relents over disaster." Joel 2:12-13

TODAY'S DEVOTIONAL:

Oftentimes, our repentance falls short because we don't begin with an "inward humility." It truly is a heart issue.

Rending your heart will result in that outward change. Yes, there is fasting, weeping, and mourning for the sin we have committed against a holy and all-loving God. But it must begin with the heart.

As lots were being cast at the feet of Christ to divide his clothes, he hung on a wooden cross. Ultimately, it was on the cross, that God paradoxically relented over eternal disaster. On the cross, God brought judgment on His innocent Son, so that when we would rend our hearts, disaster would not come upon us.

It was there that Christ appeals to the Father and cries out, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." (Luke 23:34)

Today, as you read this, may the words of Jesus on the cross wash over you. May God's forgiveness, make your head bow and let us return to him with all our heart.

The prophet asks, "Who knows whether he will not turn and relent, and leave a blessing behind him?" (Joel 2:14) That question is answered in the death and sacrifice of Christ. Because it is there that God relents. That worship would rise in our hearts as we see God relenting complete and total destruction on us as He has put it on his Son. May that bring us to our knees with godly sorrow, confessing our sins, and bringing true conversion to our hearts.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR GOD'S PEOPLE:

Father, search our hearts and let us have sorrow over our own personal sin. We confess our sin and we rend our hearts, trusting that you will convert us and have us return to you once again. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.

TODAY'S PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST:

God, I pray for those who are far from you. May your appeal on the cross for the Father's forgiveness touch every dark corner of their heart, and may they know that you are gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love; and that you are a God who relents over disaster. Amen.

RETURN



Contributed by Tony Villatoro, Pastor | Sojourn Spring Branch
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