

---

## Good News: Believe It

In our previous studies, we saw that the gospel is an announcement of the Kingdom of God and that at the heart of this good news is our reconciliation with God through the life and death of Jesus Christ.

Our text this week addresses the response that is required of anyone who would hear and receive the gospel: repentance and faith. But, we must beware of the “counterfeits” of both repentance and faith.

### Mark 1:14-20

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee, proclaiming the gospel of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.”

<sup>16</sup>Passing alongside the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and Andrew the brother of Simon casting a net into the sea, for they were fishermen. <sup>17</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you become fishers of men.” <sup>18</sup>And immediately they left their nets and followed him. <sup>19</sup>And going on a little farther, he saw James the son of Zebedee and John his brother, who were in their boat mending the nets. <sup>20</sup>And immediately he called them, and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired servants and followed him.

### Repentance and Faith

The Westminster Shorter Catechism (#87) defines true repentance this way:

*Repentance unto life is a saving grace, whereby a sinner, out of a true sense of his sin, and apprehension of the mercy of God in Christ, doth, with grief and hatred of his sin, turn from it unto God, with full purpose of, and endeavor after, new obedience.*

Of true faith, the Catechism (#86) says:

*Faith in Jesus Christ is a saving grace, whereby we receive and rest upon him alone for salvation, as he is offered to us in the gospel.*

Repentance and faith are “two sides of the same coin” and are the “instrumentality” of our receiving salvation. Amazingly, they are also both free gifts from God.

We can see two very important elements of saving faith in the responses of the first disciples to the call of Jesus. They readily followed Jesus and they followed Him radically, that is, they left other things, even work and family, behind. Jesus became everything to them. Following Jesus is much like getting married: we take Him, forsaking all others; we are committed to Him forever; and our relationship becomes the framework for all of life.

**Discussion Questions**

- 1) In order to enjoy the full benefits of the Kingdom of God, we must repent and believe. Why are these two things so closely linked?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) From the Westminster Shorter Catechism definition of repentance, what, in your own words, is the fundamental concept in it?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What is meant by the term “counterfeit repentance”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) The call to follow Jesus is both urgent and radical. How do you see these in the text?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) How might we today express the radical nature of discipleship? How do we “leave business and home” for Him?

**Article to Read**

*All of Life is Repentance*  
by Tim Keller  
[WEB LINK](#)

NOTES:

**Going Deeper**

1. Do you know for sure that you have savingly repented and believed the gospel of Christ? How do you know?
2. In what ways could you follow Jesus more readily and more radically?