



Obsessed with Sin

It was an unhealthy obsession

**It required them to be judgmental and
condemning.**

Punished

Identified Publicly

Distanced

**Obsession with sin always leads to
self-righteousness.**



Obsessed with Sinners

When Jesus landed and saw a large crowd, he had compassion on them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd. So, he began teaching them many things.

Mark 6:34



Obsessed with Sinners

Jesus **NEVER** passed judgment on sin, because he knew their sin had already been judged.

Jesus **NEVER** excused sin because he knew to excuse sin means allowing people to die in their sin.

Jesus **NEVER** avoided people struggling with sin as they were his mission (Mark 2:17)

Jesus came to offer a **cure** for sin.



Woe 2:

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! **You travel over land and sea to win a single convert**, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.”

Working Hard

Matthew 23:15



Frustrating

People would go out in the hot wilderness looking for the Wierdo John.

Jesus could sneeze, and the crowd would gather

An untrained, uneducated fisherman could preach a sermon and 3000 responded.

When Saul became Paul people would set and listen to the message about Jesus for hours!



Frustrating

The early church had no outreach program, because people flocked to them

Jesus did not want the Pharisees to stop seeking people

The Issue:

When you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.



Could it be this Simple?

Does our inability to reach people begin with what we teach people?

Worse yet is what we are teaching people giving them a false sense of security.

Are we making them a "two-fold child of hell" because their faith is in the wrong thing.

If I were to ask the average person in a church about salvation, most would point to specific actions ("Plan of Salvation")



**In all the actions we devalue
the only action that matters**

Repent

**to feel sorry, self-reproachful, or contrite for
past conduct; regret or be conscience-stricken
about a past action.**

**to feel such sorrow for sin or fault as to be
disposed to change one's life for the better**



Repentance = teshuvah

It takes two to **teshuvah**.

To **teshuvah** correctly requires interaction between both parties.

You cannot teach **teshuvah** unless you **teshuvah**.

5 phases

teshuvah is not a one and done event.

teshuvah is not an apology

teshuvah is not just a God thing because it is a relationship fixer



Repentance = teshuvah

What Chapter and Verse am I in?

You won't find the **teshuvah** "phases" in the Bible listed as a "plan"

Remember Jesus was **Jewish** so when He used the word **repent** it had meaning.

Also, the writers of the Bible had **Jewish** origins, so, when they used the word **repent** it had meaning.

The meaning is attached to **teshuvah** practices



How Do I
teshuvah?



Phase 1:

Recognizing what you did was **wrong**

You cannot **teshuvah** until you are willing to say "**I was wrong.**"

Heshbon Hanefesh: An accounting of the Soul

NO --- I made a **MISTAKE**

NO --- It was an **ACCIDENT**

NO --- "I was only being **HUMAN**"

There are no "BUTS"



Phase 2:

Feeling **genuine** regret

It is not enough to **think** you were **wrong**, it must **impact** your **soul**.

You can't really **teshuvah** until you decide you can't live without **teshuvah**.



Phase 3:

Undoing any damage done

teshuvah is not about relieving your guilt it's about fixing what is broken (**Relationship**)

Often in the **teshuvah** process the person could not undo what they did.

What should I **do**? (Acts 2:37)

When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

It's a total act of **submission**



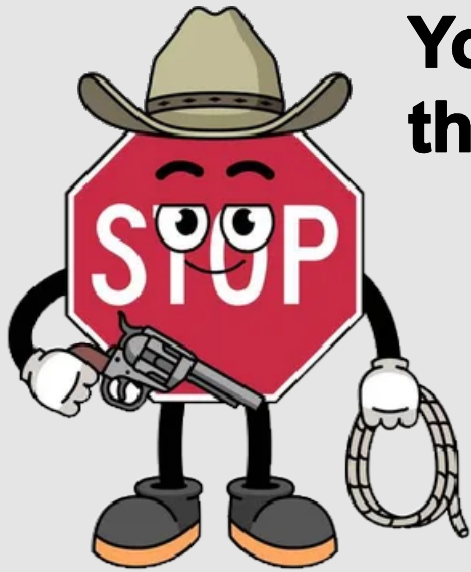
Phase 4:

Resolving not to do it again

teshuvah is a lifelong commitment

You do not **teshuvah** with the thought what happens if I fail?

It literally is a line in the sand from this point on, “I am going to do **everything** in my power to **never** have to ask you to do this again”



Serious Business

“If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where the worms that eat them do not die, and the fire is not quenched.”

Mark 9:42-48



Phase 5:

Being **forgiven** by the person who was wronged

This is the faith part of **teshuvah**

Up until this point it's all about **ME**



I think this is Paul's point in Philippians 2:12

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed —not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling

Philippians 2:12



It Takes Two to teshuvah

The Pharisees and the teachers of the law began thinking to themselves, “Who is this fellow who speaks blasphemy? Who can forgive sins but God alone?”

Luke 5:21

Thus the only way I am ever truly forgiven is if I receive the grace and mercy from the one to whom I offered my **teshuvah**



Are you living in teshuvah?

Have you sought God in **total** submission?

Willing to do **whatever** it takes to demonstrate your **desire for forgiveness**?

Have you received the **forgiveness** he offered through **Jesus**?

