

## THE SIAMESE TWINS OF THE GOSPEL

### Mark 1:15

**Introduction:** Many years ago there was a rare birth of Chinese twins of Siam who were joined at their hips, chests, stomachs, heads and were therefore totally inseparable. Two individuals, yet totally dependent upon each other, totally inseparable. They were "one" in a way, yet they were actually two.

The thought/point of this thought is to think of John the Baptist's preaching of "prepare the way..." and Jesus' arrival. After Jesus' "temptations" and He began to preach, His message was "repentance and faith. All through Jesus' ministry He was always talking about repentance and faith, the "alpha and omega" of His preaching and teaching. Thus "Repent and Obedience/Faith" are in a sense Siamese Twins of the Gospel, separate, yet essentially joined together.

### I. THE GOSPEL IS A COMMAND

1. Jesus used reason, persuasion, arguments, invitations and entreaties in His preaching/teaching.
2. Jesus spoke a parable of a marriage supper and invitations being sent out, then others were sent out "entreating" people to come, finally there was the "command" to come.
3. When "commanded" there is no option. Not obeying will bring ill consequences if the "command" is not obeyed. ("*...how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation...*")
4. It is the same God who spoke to Moses who says "*...repent ye...*"
5. The reason for a command: Many will refuse to even give it a thought if it is not a command.
  - "*...every knee SHALL bow...*" No matter who, or where, or whatever the condition, every knee shall bow - because God says so!
  - Excuses will be given at judgment but God says that there will be no reasons accepted then.
  - God sent Jesus, Jesus sent the Apostles, now Preachers are sent and they all say:  
**"...REPENT!"**
6. It is a sad proof of man's depravity to not obey God's Command to "**REPENT**"
  - To not repent at God's command increases that person's doom at judgment.
7. God will enforce His commands.

### II. "COMMAND" EXPLAINS ITSELF

1. The word "repent" means to change one's mind, a deep and serious work, more than just being sorry, or anxious.
2. Repentance is consistent with Faith. "*...repent and believe the Gospel...*"
  - There never will be a sinner that Jesus cannot pardon, although there are those who deny, reject God's promise and will remain unsaved.
  - If one be as black as Hell, as wicked as Satan, God can save that person.
  - It is an insult to God to think that one is past God's mercy.

- False repentance can be brought on by fears of hell, consequences of sin, the torments of eternity without God, yet one does not REPENT. Fear is NOT repentance.
  - False repentance is remorse, feeling no hope, so one doesn't listen. A regret of doing wrong, but continues on in sin.
3. Saving Repentance is the result of FAITH.
    - Repentance makes one detest his/her past life of sin and being without Jesus, thus salvation.
    - Repentance is looking at Jesus' death with a broken heart, thus salvation.
    - Repentance is making one avoid sin because of Jesus' death, thus salvation.
    - Repentance is a change of mind - to live like Jesus Christ, not after the flesh anymore, because Jesus saves, thus salvation.
    - The only kind of repentance to preach is that our sins killed Jesus, therefore hate those sins.
  4. Faith means trusting Jesus Christ. No repentance is true except that which exhibits FAITH in Jesus Christ.
    - One does not have saving repentance if he/she thinks lightly of sin, does not flee from sin, winks at dishonest practices, sits at the table with open sinners, walks arm in arm with sin, dabbles in sin.
  5. What is your repentance? Is it real? Do you look to Jesus Christ only? Do you detest, hate sin? All sin?

### **III. JESUS CHRIST'S COMMANDS ARE REASONABLE**

1. How do you act/react concerning offenses? If you offend do you expect to be forgiven? If you are offended, do you expect to be asked for forgiveness?
2. Does God ask too much for a person to come to Him for forgiveness? Have YOU ever done anything which should cause you to go to God and ask/beg Him for forgiveness? Did/Have you?
3. Can one be saved and stay in sin as usual? Can one continue to love his/her sins and go to heaven?
  - Can one be stained with sin and yet be "spotless?" Can one's body be filled with disease and yet be healthy? Ridiculous!
4. God's demand for a changed heart is absolutely necessary.
5. Does God ask too much for us to believe in Jesus Christ? Has the Creator that right?
6. How can God save if one doesn't believe Him? Can God save one who chooses to remain unbelieving? One who doubts His grace? Who mistrusts His love? Who slanders His character?
7. The most reasonable thing in the world is to believe Jesus Christ.
8. Jesus warned and pronounced "woes" on those who have heard how to be saved, yet have not believed.

## CONCLUSION:

1. Our country has a "national guard," a military group who are on "stand-by" if our nation ever needs them in times of emergency. They train at various times of the year in various places. They are ready at all times to protect the citizens of our country. What if all their "drills" and "practices" were suddenly NOT drills and practice, but the REAL THING?
2. Suppose Jesus Christ's commands WERE REAL. What if there is really a Hell. Suppose that He is telling the truth and all who refuse to repent and believe in Him were really going to Hell?L
3. Today is God's time. Today is the Gospel's time. Today is also YOUR time.  
- Only the fool has the calendar of tomorrow.
4. Repentance is the daily, hourly duty of the Christian.
5. No one in this place/room/sanctuary, can say that he/she did not hear or have an opportunity to be saved. So, what are you going to do? You know, you have been invited, you know what will happen to you if you reject God's invitation/command.