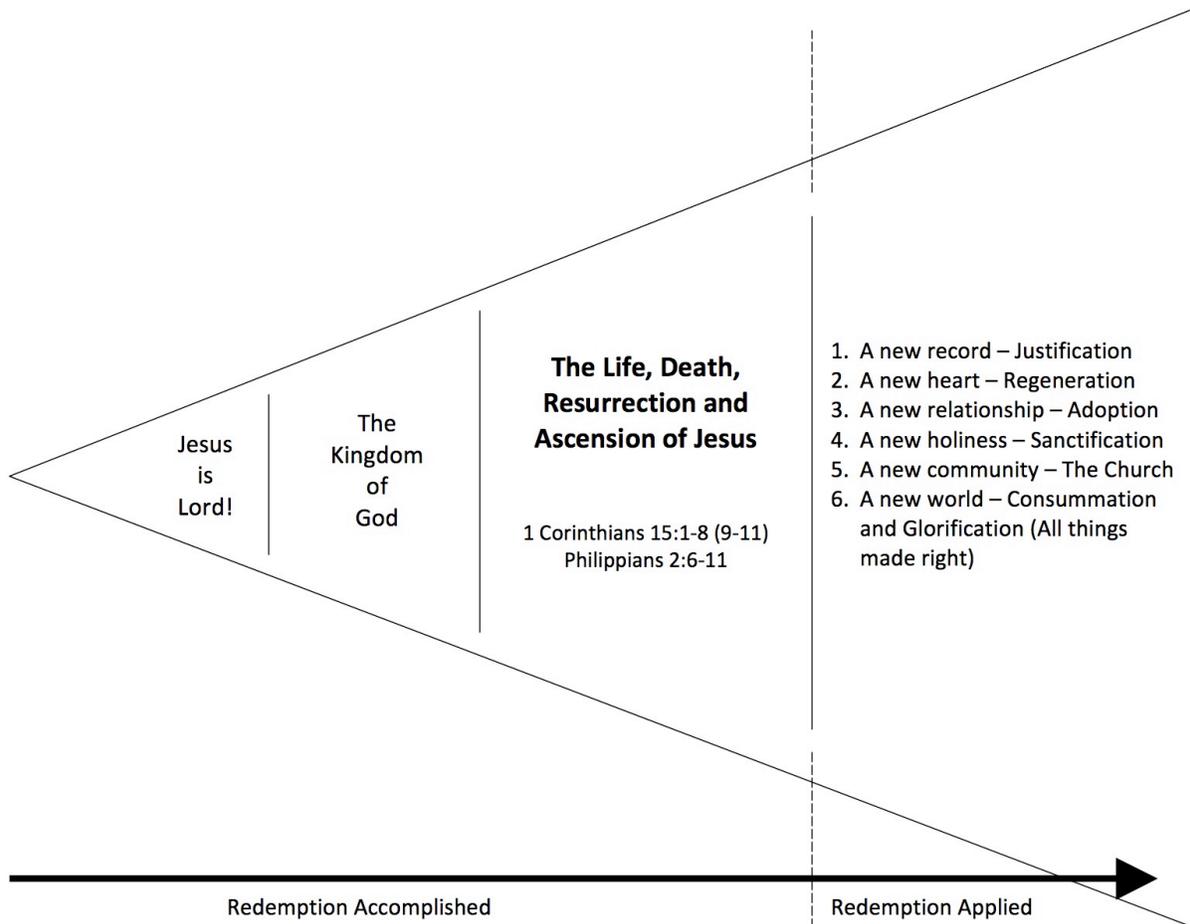


Series: Parabolic Mirrors
Message: The Story of Repentance
Scripture: Luke 18:9-14
Speaker: Bob Cargo
Date: 20/21 April 2013

Mark 1: 14-15

¹⁴ After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. ¹⁵ "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

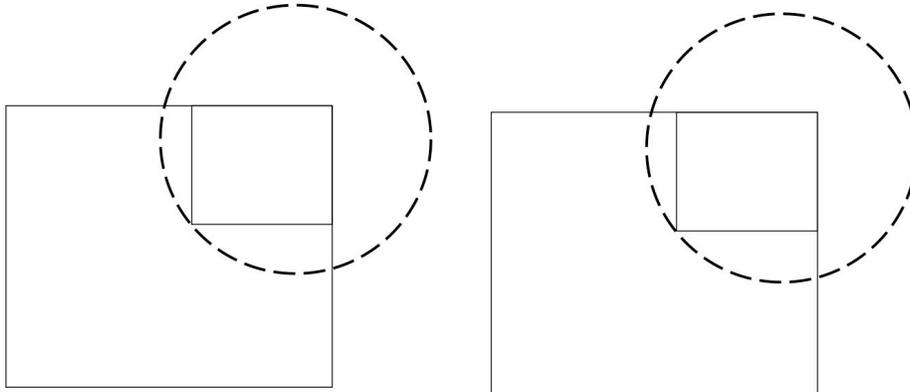
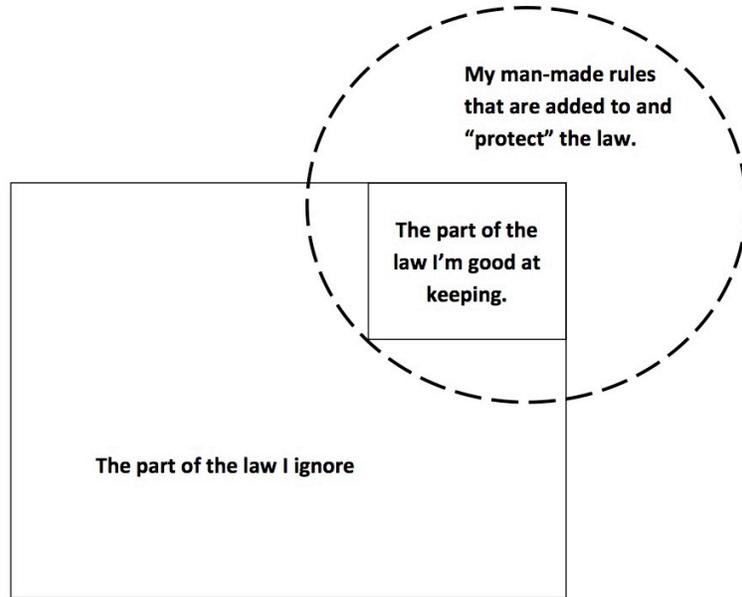


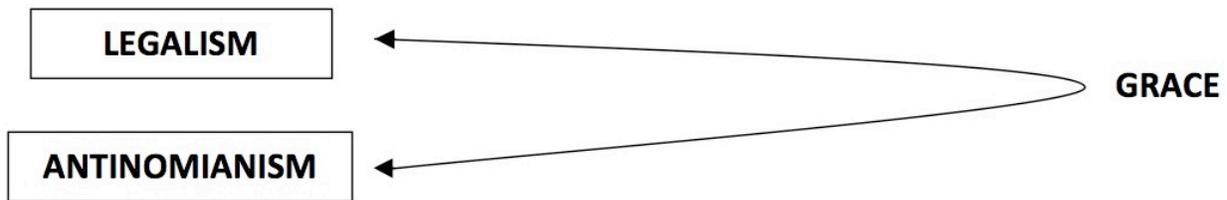
Luke 18: 9-14

⁹ To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: ¹⁰ "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹ The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. ¹² I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

The Operating System of a "the Religious/Good Person".

1. It focuses on a narrow part of God's law and ignores the rest.





2. It does the right things outwardly but for the wrong reasons inwardly.

Galatians 5:6

⁶ For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

"Believers obey Christ as the one by whom our obedience is accepted by God. Believers know all their [works] are weak, imperfect and unable to abide in God's presence. Therefore they look to Christ as the one who bears the iniquity of their holy things, who adds incense to their prayers, gathers all the weeds from their duties, and makes them acceptable to God."

John Owen; quoted from *Transforming Power of the Gospel*, Jerry Bridges.

"Unless we believe the gospel, we will be driven in all we do – whether obeying or disobeying – by pride ("self-love") or fear ("of damnation"). Apart from 'grateful remembering' of the gospel [and faith in 'future grace'] all good works are done for sinful motives. Mere moral effort may restrain the heart but does not truly change the heart. Moral effort merely 'jury rigs' the evil of the heart to produce moral behavior out of self-interest. It is only a matter of time before such a thin tissue collapses."

Tim Keller, from the *Belgic Confession*, Chapter 24

"A result of 'faith working by love' is freedom. On this basis, obedience is called 'evangelical' (gospel based) – the obedience of children to a Father, done with love and delight, as opposed to legalistic, slavish, and forced. God is now served for His own sake, holiness is chosen for its own sake, and for God's sake [His glory]."

Jonathan Edwards, *Charity and Its Fruit*

Our goal is, in this regard, Gospel virtue, as opposed to common virtue. The change of the heart, rather than simply the restraint of the heart.

3. It seeks to "make a deal with God" and put Him under obligation.

The Operating System of the Repentant.

1. I am a great sinner and I need a great Savior.
2. That Savior will save me by grace alone from first to last.
3. Therefore, my entire life will be one of repentance.

Martin Luther. Thesis Number One of His 95 Theses.

"When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said, 'Repent', He called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."

"Now when a man has learned through the commandments to recognize his helplessness and is distressed about how he might satisfy the law...and then being truly humbled and reduced to nothing in his own eyes, he finds in himself nothing whereby he may be justified and saved. Here the second part of Scripture comes to our aid, namely, the promises of God which declare the glory of God, saying, 'If you wish to fulfill the law...come, believe in Christ in whom grace, righteousness, peace, liberty, and all things are promised you. If you believe you shall have all things; if you do not believe, you shall lack all things'."

Martin Luther, *On Christian Liberty*

- Focus on faults of others vs. Overwhelmed with own need
- Independent, self-sufficient vs. Dependent on God
- Have to prove right vs. Give up the right to be right
- This ministry is privileged vs. All they have to offer is Jesus
- Concerned with being respectable; image & reputation vs. Die to their own reputation
- Cover up their sin vs. Willing to be exposed
- Concerned about consequences of sin vs. Grieved over root cause of sin

"Believers obey Christ as the one by whom our obedience is accepted by God. Believers know all their [works] are weak, imperfect and unable to abide in God's presence. Therefore they look to Christ as the one who bears the iniquity of their holy things, who adds incense to their prayers, gathers all the weeds from their duties, and makes them acceptable to God."

John Owen; quoted from *Transforming Power of the Gospel*, Jerry Bridges.

I John 2: 1-2a (NASB)

¹My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an ^[a]Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; ² and He Himself is the ^[b]propitiation for our sins;