

**Focus:** Repentance as the next response of faith.

### 1. Review the Kerygma

- a. Created, Captured, Rescued
- b. Response
  - i. First step: Surrender.
    1. This, ultimately, is faith. I believe that Jesus is the only one who can lead me to the Father, so I will give him authority over my life.
    2. Acts 2:37 → *“What are we to do, my brothers?”*

### 2. What’s next? (Repentance.)

- a. Acts 2:38, 40 → *“Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you too shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ... Save yourselves from this crooked generation.”*
- b. Matthew 3:1-12 → *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand. ...they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.”*
- c. Matthew 4:12-17 → From that time Jesus began to preach, saying, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”*

### 3. Repentance: turning away from sinful behavior and toward Godly behavior

- a. *Begins with an openness to be taught what is pleasing/displeasing to God. Surrender.*
  - i. Formed by the Word of God and the doctrine of the Church.
    1. 2 Tim 3:16-17 → *“All scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness...”*
    2. John 20:21 → *“As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.”*
  - ii. **The Fall:** ‘I can determine for myself what is good and what is evil. I don’t need God for that.’
    1. If we aren’t open to being formed and taught by God, then we are no different from Adam and Eve. We are enslaved to the devil.
- b. Turning away from sinful behavior includes *confession of sins and amendment of life.*
  - i. John 20:22-23 → *“Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”*
  - ii. Matthew 18:18 → *“Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven; whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.”*
  - iii. “The confession of evil works is the first beginning of good works.” St. Augustine
  - iv. Matthew 3:8 → *“Bear fruit that befits repentance...”*
  - v. 1 Peter 1:14-18 → *“As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, be holy yourselves in all your conduct...conduct yourselves with reverence during your time of sojourning, realizing that you were ransomed from your futile conduct...”*
- c. **Important distinction:** Not all sin is of equal weight (1 John 5:16-17)
  - i. *“If any one sees his brother committing what is not a mortal sin, he will ask, and God will give him life for those whose sin is not mortal. There is sin which is mortal; I do not say that one is to pray for that. All wrongdoing is sin, but there is sin which is not mortal.”*
  - ii. Mortal sin = deadly sin = loss of eternal life. Repent! Save yourselves from this crooked generation!
    1. Three conditions: grave matter, knowledge of grave matter, free consent
    2. If all three conditions are met, then a mortal/deadly sin has been committed

### 4. Big invitation for everyone: Read through an Examination of Conscience and Go to Confession soon

- a. Precept of the Church: You shall confess your sins to a priest at least once each year.

### Reflection Question and Homework

1. Have you surrendered your life to Jesus? Do you conduct yourself with reverence during your life?
2. **Read:** John 6; Exodus 12:1-14; John 1:29; Luke 22:7-20