



Rock Creek Baptist Church  
May 13, 2018

=====

Return To Me

"...If you will return to me, I will return to you..."

=====

Story: Car thief

Have you ever found yourself far from God, where the things of God start to seem alien to you?

Example: swept away by the ocean (God didn't leave us, we left Him gradually)

Luke 15:11-24

Jesus continued: "There was a man who had two sons. The younger one said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the estate.' So he divided his property between them. "Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything. "When he came to his senses, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.' So he got up and went to his father. "But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him. "The son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' "But the father said to his servants, 'Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate.

Zechariah 1:2-6

"The Lord was very angry with your ancestors. Therefore tell the people: This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the Lord Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the Lord Almighty. Do not be like your ancestors, to whom

the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the Lord Almighty says: 'Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.' But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the Lord. Where are your ancestors now? And the prophets, do they live forever? But did not my words and my decrees, which I commanded my servants the prophets, overtake your ancestors? "Then they repented and said, 'The Lord Almighty has done to us what our ways and practices deserve, just as he determined to do.' "

We all need to do a 180 degree turn back to God. But how? Repentance  
Story: The parrot

Jeremiah 15:19

Therefore this is what the Lord says: "If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them.

Jeremiah 15:19

Therefore thus says the LORD: "If you return, Then I will bring you back; You shall stand before Me; If you take out the precious from the vile, You shall be as My mouth. Let them return to you, But you must not return to them.

Psalm 94:14

For the Lord will not reject his people; he will never forsake his inheritance.

John 6:37

All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away.

John 10:29-30

My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Your eternal salvation is secure

God may not hear your prayer if you hold onto things in your heart you won't repent of

Psalm 66:18

If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;

Proverbs 1:28-29

“Then they will call to me but I will not answer; they will look for me but will not find me, since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the Lord.

It is one thing to make a simple error and repent of it. It's quite another to willingly hold onto sin, to cherish it, and not give it over to God. We build up a wall between us and God and His blessings and then question why we don't see Him, hear from Him, or receive His blessings.

Isaiah 59:2

But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

If we will repent of our sins, that wall between us and God can come crashing down!

Jeremiah 29:13

You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

1 John 1:8-10

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

Repent today, you aren't guaranteed tomorrow. Even if you were, do you really want a wall built up that your prayers can't get over?

Today is the day, don't wait until tomorrow, to return to God