

For this life is in truth wholly devoted to repentance, mourning and wailing. This is why it is **necessary to repent**, not merely for one or two days, but **throughout one's whole life**. - *John Chrysostom* (c. 347 – Sept. 14, 407)

When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, “**Repent**” (Mt 4:17), he willed **the entire life** of believers to be one of repentance. - *Martin Luther*, 1st of his 95 theses

1. “Woe to you...Chorazin, Bethsaida, Capernaum”

- We read these verses through our own window of “us” v. “them.”
- The context of these words is that Jesus is among his people and speaking to religious people who know God.
- I suggest that these passages be read as if he is speaking to **us** – current religious people. The warning is for religious people – those who are following God.
- How do we understand the word “Repent?”
 - What do you mean by repent?

2. Read Matt. 11: 20-24

3. Chorazin

- Settled c. 160 BC – after the Maccabean revolt – by Jews returning from Babylon.
- Many Galileans were recent immigrants who worshiped differently than the Judeans.
- The primary industry was Olive Oil.
- Destroyed by Rome in 67 AD.

4. Prophetic “Woe...”

- Watch your behavior, or judgment will descend upon you.
- A warning of what is coming if you do not change your ways.
- These cities would have been influenced by **anti-Roman sentiment** and the **divisions within Judaism** over the proper way to live out God’s words.

5. **Repent** – Matt. 11:20

Hebrew	Greek
<i>Shuv</i> or <i>t’shuva</i>	<i>metanoia</i>
To turn or a returning – as a returning to the path of righteousness that we are supposed to be walking. Turn from our ways back to God or back towards God.	Change of mind – to think differently. To change one's mind or will. It is often associated with a spiritual conversion. Transformative change of heart.

“**Turn (*shuv*)** us to you, O LORD, and we will **be turned (*shuv*)**” Lamentations 5:21

He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a **baptism of repentance** for the forgiveness of sins. Luke 3:3

Hebrew “to sin” – *chata* – means to miss the mark, to go astray, to go off the path.

Hebrew “Repent” – *t’shuva* – is to turn back to God and return to the proper path.

6. **Jesus uses hyperbole to make his argument** –

- Tyre and Sidon – Joel 3:4-8, Amos 1:9-10, Zech. 9:2-4
- Sodom – Genesis 19

7. **Why will it be worse for Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum?**

- Because they saw the power of God on display through Jesus miracles but ignored his messages

8. **What about us?**

- We believe Jesus fed 5000 – but we still worry, and hoard and are selfish toward our own needs.
- We believe Jesus has the power to still storms – but we won’t love our neighbor
- We want God's kingdom to manifest here on earth – but we won’t forgive and instead harbor our anger at others.
- We won’t allow the power of God to search our hearts and mind (Psalm 7:9; Jer. 17:10) to reveal the areas in our own lives that we are hiding from God and ourselves (1 John 1:5-10).