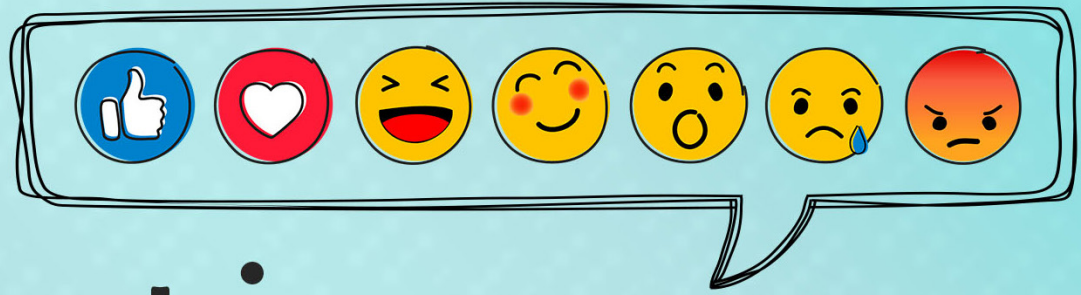


reactions

REPENTANCE | MATTHEW 3:1-8

1. Why do you think there is often a disconnect between what say we believe and how we sometimes act?
2. We don't hear the word "repentance" or "repent" in church anymore. Why do you think that is?
3. The word "Repentance" means, "to change your mind" or "to turn and walk in a new direction." How does that apply to our lives as Christians?
4. Can you recall a time when you "repented" over something? What was the result?
5. Read Matthew 3:1-8. John the Baptist often called people to "repent." He especially challenged the religious leaders to "bear the fruit of repentance." What do you think John meant by "fruit of repentance"? Why do you think he especially challenge religious leaders in this way?
6. Pastor Mark talks about the television show "Kitchen Nightmares" where celebrity chef Gordon Ramsay helps struggling restaurant owners come to the painful truth that the food is not very good. Why do you think people sometimes resist painful truths?



reactions

7. How does repentance force us to deal with unpleasant truth about ourselves, but still set us free from guilt, shame and condemnation?
8. How can the modern-day Church be honest about the need for repentance without coming across as overly harsh, condemning or hateful?
9. What do you think is the difference between just feeling guilty and choosing repentance?
10. Why is the spiritual discipline of self-examination such an important part of our spiritual growth?