

**ENCOURAGEMENT BULLETIN No. 133**

**Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous;  
it is fitting for the upright to praise him.**

**Praise the Lord with the harp;  
make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.**

(Psalm 33:1-2, NIV)

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**From that time on Jesus began to preach, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.”**

(Matthew 4:17, NIV)

**Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation and leaves no regret . . .**

(2 Corinthians 7:10, NIV)

Our text for today tells us that our Lord’s first summons in his preaching ministry was *repent*.

*God, help me not to move beyond this day without clarifying my spiritual commitment. Am I first in my life, or are you? May I know the godly sorrow that leads to deep repentance. In Jesus’ Name I pray.* (Selwyn Hughes, “Enriching Your Walk With God”)

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**DON’T TELL ME! Hear instruction, and be wise and refuse it not.**

(Proverbs 8:33)

Father, I do not like to be told what to do. I can always do it better than the other person. Yet if I take the time to listen and am open to others, I do learn. May each day bring more openness to other people’s thoughts . . . *May I never stop learning.*

(Shirlee Steward, Prayer Thoughts from Proverbs)

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**. . . you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**

(1 Peter 2:5, NIV)

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As alien and archaic as the idea may seem, the task of the church is not to make men and women happy; it is to make them holy.

(Charles Colson, “The Body”)

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**Be still and know that I am God: I will be exalted.**

(Psalm 46:10)

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Faith is not an effort, a striving, a ceaseless seeking, as so many earnest souls suppose, but rather a letting go, an abandonment, an abiding rest in God that nothing, not even the soul’s shortcomings, can disturb.

(Unknown)

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**He has showed you, O man, what is good.**

**And what does the Lord require of you?**

**To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**

(Micah 6:8, NIV)

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Humility has very little to do with how small we are, and everything to do with how great God is.

(Rev. Howard Dillon, Sermon, 14.10.2001)

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**For the word of the Lord is right and true;**

**he is faithful in all he does.**

**The Lord loves righteousness and justice;**

**the earth is full of his unfailing love.**

(Psalm 33:5-6, NIV)