



Why did Esau find no place of repentance for simply selling his birthright and David found forgiveness for adultery and murder?

Matt. 4:17 ... Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near.

- Similarities between Esau and David.
 - Both descended from Abraham – the “father of faith”.
 - Both were “men of the field”.
 - Both satisfied a physical desire in the wrong way.
 - Both despised the commandment of the Lord.
 - Both exchanged spiritual treasures for temporal pleasures.
 - Both wept over their sins.
 - Both suffered consequences that affected future generations.

- Esau's repentance did not deal with real issues that mattered to God
- Esau wept tears of regret over the loss of blessings
- David wept tears of repentance over the damage to his relationship with God
- True repentance prepares the way for total restoration of broken relationships

- Is repentance a one-time or continual act?
- Three concepts of

REPENTANCE

- A change of mind about our sins
 - Godly Motivation & Wise Courage
- A change of emotions about them
 - Burning Love
- A change of direction in walking away from them
 - Deep Humility

A SPIRITUAL PERSON; SEES HIS
OWN SINS AS BIGGER THAN THOSE
AROUND HIM AND IS CONSTANTLY
REPENTANT:



St. Moses the Black grew to become an effective prophetic spiritual leader. He was known for his wisdom, as well as his non-judgmental attitude towards others.

St. Moses was born about 332 AD. In his youth, he was the slave of a high government official who could not tolerate St. Moses dishonesty and violence. It was even said that St. Moses went so far as to commit murder. Finally, his master drove him out of his house. St. Moses became the head of a gang of seventy robbers. He was a strong and fierce man of huge stature.

GODLY MOTIVATION

It was mentioned that St. Moses used to address the sun saying, **If you are god let me know, and You the God whom I know not, lead me to You.**

St. Moses heard from someone that the monks in the wilderness of Scetis knew God, so he immediately girded himself with his sword and went to the wilderness.

WISE COURAGE

St. Moses was received by one of the priests of Scetis, St. Isidore. He was fortunate enough to have such an experienced and pious elder as his spiritual guide and director. St. Isidore led St. Moses safely during a very turbulent time in his life. As a catechumen, St. Moses received the basic Christian teachings from St. Isidore. However, the Divine Light was too much for the newly converted St. Moses, **who was heavily burdened with sin. Frequently, he exploded in tears, and had to find relief in kneeling before his guide, St. Isidore, and confessing his sins.** When the time for his baptism came, St. Moses confessed all his past evil deeds **publicly in the church.** During his confession, St. Macarius saw a tablet that was all black representing the sins of St. Moses. An angel was seen wiping off every sin as it was confessed by St. Moses, until finally the tablet was completely white.

BURNING LOVE

For St. Moses, the white robe he received after baptism, and the monastic lifestyle did not mean that he entered into the paradise of contemplation. **On the contrary, he had in front of him many years of strife and fierce struggle with the flesh, the devil and the world.** Although he was surrounded by giants of the spiritual life whose counsel he could seek at any time, and was aided by the church Mysteries and means of grace, yet it was with utmost difficulty that he won the long successive and violent battles of the flesh. After he came to the desert, St. Moses still enjoyed his former bodily strength, but his old evil passions were as powerful as before. Once, after St. Moses fasted seven days, he overpowered four thieves who entered his cell. He tied them all together with cords and lifted them up on his shoulders like a bag of straw. He brought them to the church and said to the monks, Since I have not the power to do evil to any man, what do you want me to do with these who rose up against me to slay me? When the thieves knew that St. Moses was a former robber, who had repented, they were quickly led to repentance.

While fasting, and during times of prayer, **the devil tempted St. Moses by bringing back to his mind his wicked habits of his past.** St. Moses used to go to St. Isidore to ask for his advice on what to do. At first, St. Isidore advised him to stand firm and continue his fasting and prayers, and his temptations would finally subdue. St. Isidore told St. Moses that these temptations were only the beginning of a long battle.



DEEP HUMILITY

The story of St. Moses the Black's sandbag is known by all. Once a brother had been caught in a particular sin, and the abbot of the monastery asked St. Moses to join council that would convict the monk. He reluctantly came to the council, carrying on his back a leaking bag of sand. Seeing this strange scene, the brothers asked him the significance of it. He simply said, "This sand is my sins which are trailing out behind me, while I go to judge the sins of another." At such a reply the brothers forgave the offender and decided to focus on their own salvation rather than their brothers sins.

Romans 2:1

Therefore you are inexcusable, O man, whoever you are who judge, for in whatever you judge another you condemn yourself; for you who judge practice the same things.

•5 key principles of repentance

1. Recognize God's presence – realizing that God is watching and weighing our every word, thought, and deed.
2. Change our minds – who will control our lives
3. Grieve in our hearts over sin – Isa. 53:5 But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed.
4. Walk away from sin – Rom. 13:14 Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature.
5. Take action directed by God – Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

**IT'S
NOT
TOO
LATE!**



Difficulty of Persuading Humanity To Repent

▣Mat 11:20 Then He began to denounce the cities in which most of His miracles were done, because they did not repent. 11:21 "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the miracles had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. 11:22 "Nevertheless I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in *the* day of judgment than for you. 11:23 "And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You will descend to Hades; for if the miracles had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day. 11:24 "Nevertheless I say to you that it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom in *the* day of judgment, than for you."