

Chinese

- 光说不练

Yoruba

- awawi asan – ‘empty words’
- ọrọ l'ori ahon – literally translates as ‘words on the tongue’
- ọrọ asoje – roughly ‘words spoken and eaten’


English

- lip service: serving with lips only

Examples?

How might we be doing this with God??

1



**Beyond Lip Service**  
**Luke 16:19-31**

[bib.ly/Lu16.NIV](http://bib.ly/Lu16.NIV)

2

**In Luke: Pay attention to the audience of Jesus' teaching**

16:14: The **Pharisees, who loved money**, heard all this and were sneering at Jesus....

Jesus said to them...

The focus of this story is on the rich man

3

*Luke 16:19-31*

[bib.ly/Lu16.NIV](http://bib.ly/Lu16.NIV)

19-21

22-23

24-26

27-31

4

**Luke 16:19-21**

“There was a **rich man** who was dressed in purple and fine linen and lived in luxury every day. At his gate was laid a beggar named **Lazarus**, covered with sores and longing to eat what fell from the rich man’s table. Even the dogs came and licked his sores.

5

**Luke 16:22-23**

“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side.

**Hades = place of interim judgment for the dead (Hell is final judgment)**

6

**Luke 16:24-26**

“So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’

“But Abraham replied, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here and you are in agony. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been set in place, so that those who want to go from here to you cannot, nor can anyone cross over from there to us.’

7

**Luke 16:27-31**

“He answered, ‘Then I beg you, father, send Lazarus to my family, for I have five brothers. Let him warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’

“Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them listen to them.’

“‘No, father Abraham,’ he said, ‘but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

“He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’”

8

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9

*Luke 16:19-31*

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**19-21** Rich man indulges himself without mercy for Lazarus

22-23

**Rich Man / Lazarus**

24-26

rich → beggar

27-31

covered in wealth → covered in sores

indulged himself daily → longed for even scraps

“cared for” only by **dogs**

10

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11

***Luke 16:19-31***

19-21 Rich man indulges himself without mercy for Lazarus

22-23 At death, they both experience a complete reversal

24-26 **Rich Man / Lazarus**

27-31 buried → carried by angels

Hades (torment) → Abraham’s side (feast)

- Now rich man is outside the gate, longing for scraps
- Important to read as a parable rather than a literal description of heaven and hell
- Yet judgment after death is real and permanent for life or torment

Hades = place of interim judgment for the dead (Hell is final judgment)

12

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19-21 Rich man indulges himself without mercy for Lazarus

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24-26 Rich man begs for relief, **which is not possible**

27-31 • Claimed Abraham as his father to get mercy

- John the Baptist warned against trying this
- Wanted mercy, which he never gave
  - “Judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.” *James 2:13*
- Abraham
  - This is **just** → “You are reaping what you planted”
  - This is **unchangeable** → judgment in God’s Kingdom

14

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**27-31 Rich man begs for warning to his brothers, which would be fruitless**

- Recognizes need for repentance (“they will repent”)
  - He was **not judged for being rich**
  - He was **judged for not being merciful**
    - He did not love his neighbor as himself
  - He did not care about changing that
    - Unless someone would prove the consequences!

16



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**which would be fruitless**

- Rich man claimed he lacked proof
  - “It wasn’t my fault!” → he still didn’t repent
- Abraham: lack of proof is not the problem
  - The rich man rejected what he knew of God
  - “The concrete expression of his **rejection of God’s will** was his neglect of the poor man at his gate.”

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18

*The Big Idea*

**Saving faith in Jesus Christ  
includes genuine repentance to the ways of God**


19



**Lip service**

- Serving with lips only
- An insincere expression of friendship, support, belief, ...
- When our words are not an accurate expression of our heart or will or actions

20



**“Lip service confessions”  
do not bring salvation in Christ**

**Saying “I ’m sorry”  
without something deeper than words  
is offensive to people**

**We should also...**

- Stop the harm
- Seek transformation
- Repair the damage

**Saying “I ’m sorry” without something  
deeper than words  
is even more offensive to God!**

21

### *The Big Idea*

**Saving faith in Jesus Christ  
includes **genuine repentance to the ways of God****

22

## Genuine repentance to the ways of God

- Is based on the sincere belief that...
  - God’s ways are **always**...
    - right, good, life-giving, and pleasing
  - My ways are **so often**...
    - wrong, bad, harmful, and repulsive
  - Judgment: God compares **my ways** with **His ways**

**I don't want to believe that  
because it leaves me in great trouble**

**Genuine repentance takes seriously this great trouble**

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## Genuine repentance to the ways of God is not...

- Is NOT thinking I'm okay because others are worse
- Is NOT claiming I did the best I knew
- Is NOT saying that I didn't have enough proof
- Is NOT excusing myself as “just being human”
- Is NOT blaming others for pushing me into it
- Is NOT being content with being “good enough”
- Is NOT wanting forgiveness without wanting change

24

## Genuine repentance to the ways of God

- Includes these steps
  - **Confess:** genuine agreement with these 2 things
    1. **God's ways** are always right, good, life-giving, and pleasing
    2. **My ways** are so often wrong, bad, harmful, and repulsive
    - The first step is to admit this awful situation!
    - This doesn't stop once someone becomes a Christian

**“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?”** *Romans 7:24*

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## Genuine repentance to the ways of God

- Includes these steps
  - **Confess:** genuine agreement with these 2 things  
This genuine agreement is expressed in a commitment to...
  - **Stop the harm**
    - Jesus said, “If your right eye causes you to stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell.”  
*Matthew 5:29*
    - **We want to stop causing harm**

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## Genuine repentance to the ways of God

- Includes these steps
  - **Confess**: genuine agreement with these 2 things  
This genuine agreement is expressed in a commitment to...
  - **Stop the harm**
  - **Seek transformation**
    - “For this very reason, **make every effort** to add to your faith goodness...” *2 Peter 1:5-7*
    - **We want to be good like God**

27

## Genuine repentance to the ways of God

- Includes these steps
  - **Confess**: genuine agreement with these 2 things  
This genuine agreement is expressed in a commitment to...
  - **Stop the harm**
  - **Seek transformation**
  - **Repair the damage**
    - “demonstrate repentance with deeds” *Acts 26:20*
    - “Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.” *Ephesians 4:28*
    - **We want to fix the harm we have done as much as we can**

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## Genuine repentance to the ways of God

- Includes these steps
  - **Confess our wrong**
  - **Stop the harm**
  - **Seek transformation**
  - **Repair the damage**

**Yet we always do this only partially and imperfectly, and that should troubles us!**

**So our genuine repentance can never save us because it is also affected by our sin!**

“What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?” *Romans 7:24*

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## Genuine repentance to the ways of God

Genuine (and imperfect) repentance **IN JESUS** leads to **forgiveness** and **transformation**

“Thanks be to **God**, who delivers me through **Jesus Christ our Lord!**” *Romans 7:25*

“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”  
*1 John 2:2*

“Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.”  
*1 John 3:2*

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So why struggle to do imperfectly over a lifetime  
what God will do perfectly in a moment?

- “All who have this hope in him **purify themselves**,  
just as he is pure.” *1 John 3:3*

**By its nature, genuine hope begins the journey  
to grow into that hope**

**By its nature, genuine repentance begins the journey**

- **to stop the harm**
- **to seek transformation**
- **to repair the damage**

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*The Big Idea*

**Saving faith in Jesus Christ**  
**includes genuine repentance to the ways of God**  
**which brings full forgiveness**  
**and the promise of complete transformation**  
**in Christ**

32



*A Christian View of Social Action*

- Every human organization is less good than God
  - Systemic injustice: intentions and/or effects don't match God's justice (whether by race, ethnicity, sex, age, ...)
- Genuine repentance seeks God's ways today wherever His ways are not being followed
  - Confession / Stop the harm /  
Seek transformation / Repair the damage
- Our full hope is for the new heaven and new earth where God's ways will be followed perfectly
- Whoever has this hope pursues His will on earth today

33

*The Big Idea*

**Saving faith in Jesus Christ**  
**includes genuine repentance to the ways of God**  
**which brings full forgiveness**  
**and the promise of complete transformation**  
**in Christ**  
**Even in our repentance we need God's grace**  
**which He offers fully and freely in Jesus Christ!**

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