

The Jewish Day of Atonement begins this evening, Sept. 27, this year. The day of Atonement is a time of fasting and prayer for Jewish people as they ask God to forgive their sins.

Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14

The word hagiadzo in Greek means "to sanctify" or "to make holy". It is a powerful word. It is one of the 5 Greek words used by the scholars that translated the Old Testament for the Hebrew word "kaphar" meaning "atonement". Atonement implied that the person or object was now "holy" to the Lord. On the day of atonement 2 goats were sacrificed. One in the temple the other by being led alone to the desert to die.



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Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14 9 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: 10 "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 "The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men — extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. 12 'I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.'



Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14 13 "And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' 14 "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

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"Peachey" Quinn Harrison the defendant in the last court case Lincoln defended – a murder case. Abraham Lincoln 1859



Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14

Not long ago I listened through the book <u>Lincoln's Last Trial: The Murder Case That</u> <u>Propelled Him to the Presidency by Dan</u> <u>Abrams</u> and David Fisher.

I was struck with the power Abraham Lincoln had to change people's minds. This case is fascinating. It cemented people's view that Lincoln had the ability and talent to lead the nation.

It came just months after the Lincoln vs. Douglas debates that had propelled Lincoln to national prominence. This murder trial would make or break Lincoln.



"Peachey" Quinn Harrison the defendant in the last court case Lincoln defended – a murder case. Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14

Lincoln was close friends with the family of the deceased and the family of the defendant. The basic facts of the case were undisputed.

"Peachy" Quinn Harrison had killed Greek Crafton in the dry goods store during a fight with a hunting knife he had brought to defend himself.

One of Greek's brothers was married to Peachy's sister. Both families were prominent in the Springfield IL area. The marriage was unhappy and Peachy on behalf of his sister accused Greek's brother of abuse. Greek became enraged with the accusation and threatened to "beat" him and "stomp on his face".



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Peachy found himself trapped in the dry goods store by Greek, Greek's brother John and their friend, Peachy drew his knife when Greek tried to wrestle him away from the store counter. He slashed Greek opening him from rib to groin. Greek died 7 days later.

The case caused great conflict in the Springfield area due to the prominence of both families. Most of the young men in the community had been friends with Greek and were angry.

Quinn [Peachy] was not well liked because of his temper. But he came from a well connected family. Hebrews 10:1-4



The Day of Atonement Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14 Hebrews 10:1-4

1 For the law, having a shadow of the good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same sacrifices, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year. 4 For *it* is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.



The Painting from 1839 represents a Methodist Campmeeting on the Kentucky/Illinois frontier. This campmeeting indicated one of the closing chapters of a movement that had transformed America.

Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14

In 1790 the 2nd Great Awakening began. It would be one of the longest lasting religious revival periods in American history. It focused on individual conversion and personal responsibility.

It would be credited with saving the United States.

It gave rise to the Abolitionist Movement, the Holiness Movement, the concept of universal suffrage [vote] for citizens, and civil society. In addition the ministers of this movement were usually not seminary trained but self-taught. The Methodist movement was primary in this "revival" movement. Psalm 25:6-11



The Day of Atonement

Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14 Psalm 25:6-11

6 Remember, O LORD, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, For they *are* from of old.
7 Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; According to Your mercy remember me, For Your goodness' sake, O LORD.

8 Good and upright *is* the LORD; Therefore He teaches sinners in the way.

9 The humble He guides in justice, And the humble He teaches His way.

10 All the paths of the LORD *are* mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

11 For Your name's sake, O LORD, Pardon my iniquity, for it *is* great.



Peter Cartwright was a Methodist Circuit Rider [1785-1872]

Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14

Peter Cartwright grew up in Kentucky at age 16 in 1800 at a campmeeting service he became a Christian. He was ordained in 1802 as a Methodist minister. He married and moved west to Illinois due to his anti-slavery views. At one point his circuit was over 400 miles. He baptized over 12,000 people in his 50 year ministry. One of the most respected men on the frontier.

He had served as a military chaplain in the war of 1812. He had been instrumental in the development of Illinois as a state and served in the Illinois legislature. In fact he defeated Abraham Lincoln for the seat in 1830. He was an anti-slavery Democrat [a rare item in 1800s]. Luke 19:7-9



The Day of Atonement

Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14 Luke 19:7-9

7 But when they saw *it*, they all complained, saying, "He has gone to be a guest with a man who is a sinner."

8 Then Zacchaeus stood and said to the Lord, "Look, Lord, I give half of my goods to the poor; and if I have taken anything from anyone by false accusation, I restore fourfold."

9 And Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he also is a son of Abraham; 10 "for the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."



"Peachey" Quinn Harrison the defendant in the last court case Lincoln defended - a murder case.

Lincoln 1859

Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14

Peter Cartwright's daughter Elizabeth eloped with Peyton Harrison while her father was on away on circuit. Cartwright was furious but eventually came to accept his son-in-law.

Payton became very successful in Springfield Illinois. He unlike his father-in-law joined the newly developing Republican party. He became an active supporter of the rising Abraham Lincoln.

Cartwright was deeply troubled by his grandson's killing of Greek Crafton. The Crafton family was also well respected in Springfield. William, Greek's brother was married to Quinn's sister. The marriage was not happy, and Quinn made accusations against William.



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Greek and Quinn came to blows at a party in early July. Greek made a threat to beat and stomp Quinn at the time. Greek was large and muscular. Quinn who was only 120 pounds armed himself with a hunting knife for protection. Greek with his brother John and a friend cornered Quinn in the local dry good store and proceeded to thrash him. Quinn drew his knife and slashed out. Greek was disemboweled and John was stabbed in the forearm. Quinn escaped.



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Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14

Lincoln's defense depended on a "selfdefense" argument. However, in American law at the time, self-defense required an attempt to retreat. Arming oneself prior to the event was generally viewed as pre-meditation.

Lincoln's defense reoriented American law recognizing the concept of "stand-your-ground" and the right to arm one's self for a potential threat.

Peter Cartwright visited the dying Greek Crafton and became a critical witness in the trial. His statement of Greek's repentance and forgiveness of Quinn was contradicted by a friend of Greek. Mark 2:16-17



The Day of Atonement

Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14 Mark 2:16-17

16 And when the scribes and Pharisees saw Him eating with the tax collectors and sinners, they said to His disciples, "How is it that He eats and drinks with tax collectors and sinners?" 17 When Jesus heard *it*, He said to them, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I did not come to call the righteous, but

sinners, to repentance."



The two goats were selected to resemble each other. One was designated by lot as "belonging to the Lord" and the other "to Azazel". We often see ourselves as the hero or victim in situations. Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14

Our struggle with repentance is based on our view that we are a hero or a victim.

The Greek word for repentance is metanoia which basically means "to change one's way of thinking". What the Bible makes clear is that while we may sometimes be heroic and we may be victimized we are all sinners.

None of us are pure enough to claim the altruistic hero or the innocent victim, the lot of the 2 goats proves this. It indicates the failure of the goats even to meet this standard. Only Jesus Christ met the standard on both sides. In his body he bore away our sins and with his innocent blood he met the price of our salvation. Colossians 2:13-14



The Day of Atonement Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14 Colossians 2:13-14 13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

14 having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross.



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Lincoln knew he faced an uphill battle. Quinn was known to have a hot temper and was not well liked. Self-defense had not been used in this way in American law. Lincoln would have to convince the jury of its legitimacy. Over his years as a successful attorney he had earned the reputation of the Great Persuader. This trial would demand all his skills.

Our deeply held beliefs are central to our identity. No belief is deeper than our view that we are either the hero of our own story or the victim of others' callous behavior.



Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14

Repentance begins in "conviction" that forces us to a decision. It requires that we admit to God we are responsible for our own sins and that we are not the hero or the victim but an offender in need of forgiveness.

God, due to our repentant nature, declares us "righteous" and set aside for his glory...or simply "holy". Lincoln convinced the jury that Quinn had acted in self-defense. Quinn could have gone on, after being declared innocent, to become a pillar of the Springfield community. But he continued to allow his temper to rule his life. Eventually he destroyed his marriage, angered the community and died in ignominy in Kansas City in 1920s.

"The Pharisee and the Publican" by James Tissot



Message: "Atonement & Repentance" Luke 18:9-14

Lincoln and the jury had declared Quinn innocent of murder, though he had killed another man in malice...in his mind he was still the hero and victim not the forgiven offender. Jesus in Luke 18 brings us face to face with the attitude of repentance at variance with the attitude of hypocrisy...viewing ourselves as hero or victim. Because of self-centeredness we are all sinners. Repentance requires that we face this reality. God's holiness demands it.

"The Pharisee and the Publican" by James Tissot