September 27, 2026 Turn Around!

(Series Info)

Burning Words

We live in a world full of voices competing for our attention. But volume doesn't equal truth. In Burning Words, we'll hear from voices in Scripture whose messages still speak to the struggles we face today-calling us from compromise to conviction, fear to faith, and wandering back to God. Because God's truth doesn't change with culture... and some messages are too important to ignore.

This week's message was given by Drew Sherman, Lead Pastor at Compass Christian Church in Colleyville, Texas—near Fort Worth.

(Personal Fun Facts)

Have you ever been absolutely convinced you were going the right way only to discover you were going completely the wrong direction?

(Takeaways)

What was a major takeaway moment during the sermon this week?

(Big Idea)

Repentance is an inner change that produces an outer turning; it is a reorientation of the person toward God.

(Discussion)

Scripture: James 1:22–25 Turning Around Requires Looking in the Mirror

Before you can turn around, you must admit where you actually are. It requires gut-level honesty with yourself and with God. One of our strongest human instincts is self-justification. We don't simply sin. We defend the road we are on. We say, "That's just the way I am." "Everyone struggles with this." "At least I didn't do that." These statements give us permission to keep traveling the same road. Repentance begins when I stop defending myself long enough to look honestly in the mirror.

- 1) Why do you think James uses a mirror as an analogy to deal with how we are to be honest with ourselves? What does the mirror represent?

- 2) What is the goal when we look in the mirror, according to James?

Scripture: Matthew 15:18–19; 2 Corinthians 7:9–10
Turning Around Involves a Change of Heart
Many people associate repentance with behavior modification. "Stop doing bad things." If this is true, then Christianity would essentially be a religious behavior modification program. Jesus goes deeper and locates our problem in the heart. Our behaviors and actions do matter, but they reveal that which lies beneath the surface. Genuine repentance asks more than "What did I do?" It asks, "What is happening in me that made this road (behavior) attractive?"

- 3) Can you think of an example where the visible behavior isn't really the deepest issue? What lies beneath the surface, do you think?

- 4) How can you tell the difference between genuine repentance and simply regretting the consequences of something you've done?

Scripture: Mark 1:14–15 Turning Around Requires Taking a Step Toward Jesus
This is the beautiful part about repentance. When we turn around, we gaze at the face of Jesus. We often think repentance is a negative thing with negative feelings associated with it. We stop doing something that is wrong. We give up something that keeps our faces hidden from God. We walk away out of disgust and shame. Repentance isn't simply turning from something. It is turning toward Someone. Jesus announces the very words spoken by John the Baptist: "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" Repent. Believe. Turn from one kingdom and give yourself to another King.

- 5) Do you think repentance is something Christians do once when they become Christians, or is repentance supposed to become a way of life?

- 6) What is the difference between turning away from sin and actually turning toward Jesus? Can you do the first without really doing the second?

- 7) How might repentance change if, instead of asking, "What do I need to stop doing?" we ask, "What would life under the reign of Jesus look like here?"

Personal Application
There are two roads. One road represents the direction your life naturally goes when you are in charge. The other road represents your life under the reign of Jesus. Where do you see the greatest tension between those two roads in your own life right now?

- Relationships
- Money
- Sexuality
- Anger
- Forgiveness
- Ambition
- Pride
- Control
- Habits

What are you defending that God may be asking you simply to admit?

What is happening underneath the behavior that God wants to change **in** you?

What is one concrete step toward Jesus you know you need to take?

Closing Prayer
Father, thank You that when we are going the wrong way, You don't abandon us. You call us to turn around. Give us courage to look honestly in the mirror, humility to admit where we are wrong, and faith to take a step toward Jesus. May Your Kingdom come

and Your reign become more visible in every part of my life. Jesus, be my King, change my heart, and lead me in Your way.
Amen.