

EZRA 9

SUNDAY 12th JULY 2020



BIBLE

EZRA 9

Ask God for help for yourself and the church as we read His word

Read Ezra 9

LISTEN

SERMON BY SPENCER CRITOPH

Follow the link in the email to listen to a sermon on this passage.

REFLECTION

QUESTIONS AND NOTES

- What do you think of when you think of confession
 - What of those thoughts can be helpful and what are unhelpful?

The problem (1-2)

- In v 1-2 what is the big problem? Look at Exodus 34:10-16 to help
- Where do you think, as a church or as individuals, we are just like the world around us?
 - If someone were to look our life what would they say we love most?

The passage might raise questions about what this means for dating and marriage as a christian now. Look up these passages (1 Corinthians 7:39-40; 2 corinthians 6:14-7:1 and 1 Peter 3:1-6) and then apply them to the questions below:

- Should a Christian seek to marry someone who is not a believer?
 - Why?
 - What does that then mean for dating someone who is not a believer?
- What should a chrisitan do if they are married to a non believer?
 - What is the reason for acting this way?

Appalled by sin (3-4)

- Describe what Ezra's response is to sin in v3-4.
 - Are we appalled by sin? If not why not?
 - In v3-4 what is distinctive about those who are appalled by sin?

Confess to our gracious God (5-15)

- In v4 and 5, what leads Ezra to confess to God?
 - How does the grace and forgiveness of God change how we think of confession?
- In v10 - 12 Ezra is specific about the sins they have committed. Why might that be helpful as we confess?
- We are completely **forgiven** (Jesus declared 'it is finished') and we are called to **confess** (1 John 1:8-9 - If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.)
 - Given the above why do we confess our on going sin?
- Summarise and Apply
 - What in this passage leads us to worship Jesus?
 - What do we learn about ourselves from this passage? How does it lead us to give thanks or repent?
 - How might this help us share the good news with our friends and neighbours who don't know Jesus?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO GOD IN PRAISE AND PLEADING

Use this passage from 1 John 1:5-10 to help you structure your prayers. Pray in response to the passage, for yourself, the church and others.

5 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. 6 If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all^[b] sin.

