

12 – Ezra 9:1-15 – Disobedience and Confession

What do you do when God’s word exposes an area of sin in your life that you need to change?

Ezra is appalled

Ezra 7 ... studied God’s word, obeyed God’s word and he taught God’s word.

... after all these things had been done, the leaders of God’s people have come forward to let him know that God’s word is NOT being obeyed.

... easy for us to get chapter 9 VERY wrong

- NIV heading is really unhelpful here.
- YHWH is not somehow trying to keep his people ‘genetically pure’

Ch 9 ... YHWH does not want his people to follow after the ‘false and detestable gods of these other nations’.

Nehemiah 13:26 raises Solomon as the classic bad example.

Ezra is struck with grief and is appalled.

... verse 4, those who loved God’s word and trembled at God’s word

Ezra prayed

... throw himself and the people 100% on the mercy of God.

v7 - “days of our ancestors till now, our guilt has been great”

Ezra sees the gracious hand of God

- v 8 ...given them a firm place in his sanctuary.
- ... once again, forsaken God’s commands.
- v 13 ... punished far less than they deserve

v15 ... wondering if any of them could ever stand in God’s presence.

For us today

- a) Not about ‘genetic purity’ but ‘spiritual purity’
- b) Points us forward.

The problem of human sin is still as much a problem in Ezra as it was in Genesis 4.

v15, *“Lord, the God of Israel, you are righteous! We are left this day as a remnant. Here we are before you in our guilt, though because of it not one of us can stand in your presence.”*

What God has done to fix our problem.

Romans 1:16-17, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’

Romans 3:20-24, “Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God’s sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin. But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.”

c) Concerned about sin

Do we feel the weight of our own sin?

Romans 6:1, “Shall we go on sinning so that god’s grace might increase?”

Romans 6:2, “by no means”

d) Prayer in the face of sin