



DIGGING DEEPER

Ezra 9-10 – Repeat

PLEASE READ – Ezra 9-10

SUMMARY...

Despite the gracious work of the LORD in restoring his people to himself – they remain unfaithful to him. Most notably they repeat the sins of their forefathers – by intermarrying with people of other nations and joining in with their detestable practices. Ezra leads the people in acknowledging, mourning, confessing and repenting of their sin.

GETTING STARTED

Discuss the Proverb below...

Prov 26v11: As a dog returns to its vomit, so fools repeat their folly.

1) DO WE ACKNOWLEDGE OUR SIN?

What is it that's brought to Ezra's attention in 9v1-2 and why is their failure so significant? (See Deuteronomy 7v3-4)

Joining in with the sinful practices of those around us remains a danger today. See Romans 12v2. What are the areas we need to be most aware of?

2) DO WE GRIEVE OUR SIN?

What does Ezra's reaction in v3-4 reveal about his own heart?

In what ways is your attitude similar / dissimilar to Ezra?

Consider the words of Jesus below and talk about what that looks like in practice...

Mt 5v4: Blessed are those who mourn for they shall be comforted

3) DO WE CONFESS OUR SIN?

What do you find most striking about Ezra's prayer of confession? (9v5-15)

What do we learn about God's grace and the way the people responded to God's grace?

What place does confession have in your own personal life / family life / church life?

4) DO WE REPENT OF OUR SIN?

What is shocking about Shecaniah's suggestion in 10v2-4?

Why does the enquiry take place in 10v16-17? What does this teach us about the nature of repentance?

How radical are you when it comes to dealing with sin?

Meditate on the Proverb below...

Prov 21v31: The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory rests with the LORD.