

Ezra 9-10 “Repentance Is the Only Remedy”**Icebreaker**

When you realize you’ve done something wrong, what is your first instinct—defend yourself, minimize it, fix it quickly, or fully own it? Why?

Read: Ezra 9-10

Key Theme

The greatest threat to God’s people is not external opposition but internal unfaithfulness, and the only remedy for sin is humble, honest, and decisive repentance before a holy and merciful God.

Discussion Questions**1. Sin Exposed by the Word (9:1-4)**

What does this passage show about the role of God’s Word in exposing sin?

How does our reaction to Israel’s sin reveal what we truly believe about God and His holiness?

2. Godly Grief and Honest Confession (9:5-7)

Why does Ezra include himself in the confession, even though he did not personally commit the sin?

What is the difference between anger over sin, and self-righteousness?

3. Remembering God’s Mercy in the Middle of Guilt (9:8-9)

Why is it important to shift our focus from our failure to God’s faithfulness?

How does remembering God’s past mercy fuel hope for today’s repentance?

4. The Stakes of Unrepentant Sin (9:10-15)

Why does true repentance require acknowledging that we have no excuses and no righteousness to plead?

How does the Gospel of Jesus provide hope in a situation where “none can stand before” God?

5. What Real Repentance Looks Like (10:1-14)

What evidence do you see here that the people's sorrow is genuine?

What would "complete separation" from sin look like in our lives today?

6. Following Through (10:15-17)

Why is it significant that the people made a covenant and worked through the matter carefully over time?

What does this teach us about accountability and follow-through in repentance?

7. Devotion Above All (10:18-44)

Why must devotion to God take precedence even over close relationships?

How does this passage challenge our modern assumptions about loyalty, identity, and worship?

Takeaway

Seeking God faithfully means:

- Allowing God's Word to expose sin
- Responding with godly grief rather than defensiveness
- Confessing without excuses
- Remembering God's mercy in the midst of guilt
- Taking decisive steps to separate from sin
- Following through with accountability
- Loving the Creator more than any created thing

Our greatest danger is not the enemy outside us—but the unfaithfulness within us.

Prayer

Holy and merciful God, we confess that we are often more concerned with comfort, relationships, and reputation than with faithfulness to You. Expose our sin through Your Word. Give us godly sorrow that leads to real repentance. Help us to confess without excuses and to take decisive steps of obedience. Thank You that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Place Your mercy over our guilt, strengthen our devotion to You above all else, and make us a people who tremble at Your Word and trust in Your grace.