



**COMMUNITY
CHURCH**

Offer Hope. Grow in Community. Be the Church.

August 7, 2022

Ezra 9: A Broken and Contrite Heart

*Walk with the wise and become wise,
for a companion of fools suffers harm. (Proverbs 13:20)*

This is why the Lord told His people as they were entering the Promise Land:

When the Lord your God brings you into the land ... Make no treaty with them and show them no mercy. Do not intermarry with them. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons, for they will turn your children away from following me to serve other gods... (Deuteronomy 7:1-4)

And they didn't obey...

As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. (1 Kings 11:4)

It wasn't about race, but about idolatry.

What did Ezra do when he heard the news?

Describe Ezra's prayer.

*Have mercy on me, O God, According to your unfailing love;
According to your great compassion
Blot out my transgressions.
...a broken and contrite heart
You, God, will not despise. (Psalm 51:1, 17)*

*God opposes the proud
but shows favor to the humble. (James 4:6)*

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: “Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.’

“But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, ‘God, have mercy on me, a sinner.’

“I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.” (Luke 18:9-14)

Choices:

1. You can fake it and act like you don't sin.
2. You can try to never sin again in your own strength.
3. You can come humbly to the compassionate God and receive mercy and His empowerment.

HOME GROUP Questions for Ezra 9:

1. Read Psalm 51 and discuss David's confession.
2. How does this compare with Ezra's confession?
3. Read Daniel's prayer of confession in Daniel chapter 9 and discuss.