

Ezra 9

The Leaders' Report

What do the leaders report to Ezra?

(v1) The people, priests, and Levites have not _____

(v2) They have taken _____

(v2) The leaders and rulers have been foremost in this trespass

Broken Laws

(v1, 11-12) Separating from the people of the Land

Exodus 34:11-16; Deuteronomy 12:29-31

(v2) Kil'ayim Laws – the forbidden mixtures

Deuteronomy 22:9-11, Leviticus 19:19

The Kil'ayim laws teach that one vessel cannot contain two natures of _____.

What did these mean to Ezra in the Old Testament context, and how do these translate into a New Testament context?

- “You shall not sow your vineyard with different kinds of seed, lest the yield of the seed which you have sown and the fruit of your vineyard be defiled . . .”
(Consider in light of 1 Corinthians 7:12-16)

- “You shall not plow with an ox and a donkey together . . .”
(Consider in light of 2 Corinthians 6:14-15)

- “You shall not wear a garment of different sorts, such as wool and linen mixed together.” (Consider in light of Luke 5:36-37)

(v12) Love Your Neighbor but Hate Your Enemy

Deuteronomy 23:6 (Consider this in light of Matthew 5:43)

How did Israel’s condition get this bad?

- If these leaders saw the problem, why haven’t they done something about it themselves?
- Why didn’t anyone say anything when it was just a small, localized problem?
- Why weren’t there repercussions for that sin to deter others from following the same path?
- Who should have stepped in and demanded accountability?

Compare with 1 Corinthians 5. Pose the same questions to the Corinthian church.

- What should the church’s response have been?

- What is Ezra's response?

(v3) _____

(v4) _____

(v5) _____

- This is an extreme reaction from Ezra. What kind of reaction does it provoke in others (v4)?
- What kinds of sin in our own culture have come to be viewed as "normal" when they are actually grievous sins in God's eyes?
- When the Ezras in our day react in this extreme way to sins, what response do they get from people?

Ezra sat down astonished until evening. What realizations has Ezra come to?

- The people he assumed were clean were actually _____ and unsanctified, and they have made everything they touch unclean, (just as God said through Haggai).
- He assumed he was coming to build on an established _____.
- He is going to have to execute _____ on the offenders.

Ezra's Confession

Why does Ezra confess on behalf of the people?

What is Ezra's understanding of God's grace (v8-9)?

(v8) He has left a _____

(v8) He has given us a _____ in His holy place

(v8) He has enlightened our _____

(v8) He has given us _____ in a time of bondage

(v9) God did not _____ us in our bondage

(v9) He extended _____ to us in the sight of the _____ of Persia

(v9) To _____ us, _____ the house of our God, and _____ its
ruins

(v9) To give us a _____ in Judah and Jerusalem