



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Hope for the Broken Heart

Passage: Ezra 9:1-10:4

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: Have you ever had expectations that didn't turn out the way you hoped? Disappointment has a way of leaving us discouraged and brokenhearted. That is exactly where we find Ezra. After arriving in Jerusalem with great anticipation, he discovered that God's people had once again fallen into sin and compromise. Though his heart was broken, Ezra's response reminds us that God offers hope even in our greatest disappointments.

I. They Stopped _____ Their Sin (Verses 9:3-4)

Sin always enslaves. It brings bondage, and the reality is we are all cut from the same cloth.

"For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not." (Ecclesiastes 7:20)

"If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." (1 John 1:8)

When was the last time your sin actually bothered you?

If there is ever going to be hope for our homes, for our churches, for our nation, we must first stop minimizing sin.



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II. They Got Real About Their _____ (Verses 9:5-15)

"But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away." (Isaiah 64:6)

The humanism taught in the 1990s has been repackaged for the modern day, but it's all heading in the same direction away from God.

"I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned." (John 15:5-6)

"As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." (Romans 3:10-12)

We have to get real about our condition. We are not inherently good. Deep down, we are all sinners in need of the saving power of Jesus Christ.

Jesus didn't die on a cross to be a good example of selflessness. He died on the cross to save us because we are completely incapable of saving ourselves.

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do." (Romans 7:18-19)

"O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin." (Romans 7:24-25)



III. They Made Things _____ with God (Verses 10:1-4)

The Jews made a covenant with God to deal with their sin. To repent. They turned their back on their sinful behavior, they rid themselves of idolatry, and turned fully to the Lord.

Conclusion: Disappointment may break our hearts, but it does not have to steal our hope. Ezra reminds us that when we stop excusing our sin, honestly come before God, and turn back to Him, His mercy is always greater than our failures. As long as God is on His throne, there is hope for the broken heart.

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