

Ezra 10:1-8 – 20 March 2016

Introduction –

Read Ezra 9:1-2

Today we'll look at the benefits of breaking ungodly commitments that we made.

Examples of these commitments:

1. Unequally yoked marriage
 - a. Paul, not the Lord, says if an unbeliever be pleased to dwell with you don't put them away.
 - b. Remember these are people that married as unbelievers and one of them got saved.
 - c. Ask earnestly for the Lord's discretion.
2. Unequally yoked business venture
3. Ask audience for examples
4. Routine appointment with a heathen at a bar
5. Told a heathen friend you'd go to a party.

Read Ezra 10:1-8

1. They've set their hearts on fixing this problem.

2. Seems harsh to these ladies to divorce them, so why would the Lord have it happen.

What are the benefits of breaking ungodly commitments?

1. **1st benefit is: No more distraction from serving God.**

- a. The purpose of this law in the first place was so they wouldn't serve other gods.
 - i. Read Deut 12:29-32
 - ii. Read Exo 34:14-16
- b. How many commitments do you have in your life that just distract you from God?
 - i. Wes Bentley – His men don't marry...at all.
 - ii. Some of us are committed to 30 organizations but don't even commit to the Lord.
- c. Some commitments aren't even ungodly; they just plain distract us from the Lord.
 - i. Even arguing with our spouse can hinder our prayers.
- d. Example: Abraham and Hagar

2. **2nd benefit is: A restored testimony before people.**

- a. Achan's sin at Jericho affected all Israel, until they put it away.
- b. Ananias and Sapphires sin affected all the church until they put it away.
- c. Prodigal Son broke his ungodly commitments and returned home to have a restored testimony.
- d. We can't be affective in witnessing if we have ungodly alliances and commitments in our live.
- e. Read Luk 19:1-10
 - i. What would his testimony have been like had he not restored the money?
 - ii. What would his commitment to change be like had he not restored the money?
- f. A bad commitment need not define the rest of your live.
 - i. Choose you this day, whom you will serve.

3. **3rd benefit is: Opportunity to have Godly fruit and offspring.**

- a. These roll from one to another.
 - i. First you get back to serving God.
 - ii. Then your effectiveness is increased with a better testimony before people.
 - iii. Now you're able to product fruit again.
- b. How hindered would Abraham's house and lineage have been had Ishmael stayed?
- c. How spiritually tainted would the nation of Israel have been had these foreign wives not been put away?
- d. People often say, Well Israel could have helped the Heathen wives. Abraham could have helped the Egyptian Hagar.
 - i. 60 yrs ago Haggai reminded the people an important lesson (Read Hag 2:10-14)
 - ii. Your godly efforts will become contaminated if we allow sinful habits, commitments of lifestyles to remain close to us.

Conclusion –

How to break ungodly commitments that we've made.

Call each other out when there's a need to repent.

Covenant with God and man to forsake the sin.

Continue thru the craving to capitulate.