



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FROM MARCH 9/10 SERMON

If you missed the sermon, check out [biblechapel.org/sermons](http://biblechapel.org/sermons).

1. We are in the middle of Lent. Consider my conversation with Emma I shared. How would you answer the question, “What is the purpose of Lent?” Should Christians observe Lent today?
2. Read [Psalm 51:16-17](#); [Hosea 6:6](#); and [Micah 6:6-8](#). How do these passages help us understand what God is looking for in a believer’s life?
3. How would you answer the question, “What is repentance?”
4. Read [Acts 26:20](#). What does Paul teach us about repentance in this passage?
5. Some may say that repentance seems to be a “work” of salvation and contradicts salvation by grace alone. Read [John 6:44-45](#); [Acts 11:18](#); and [2 Tim. 2:25](#). What do these passages teach us?
6. In his book, *Rediscovering Holiness*, J. I. Packer writes, “Every act of repentance is a separate act and a distinct moral effort, perhaps a major and costly one. Repentance is never a pleasure” (122). While it is true that repentance often involves a radical change, how does Peter describe the benefits in [Acts 3:19](#)? What does he mean by “times of refreshing”?
7. Read [Ezra 9:1-2](#). What is the issue that Ezra is made aware of? Why is this a matter of concern?
8. Those speaking in [Ezra 9:1-2](#) call Israel a “holy race.” Read [Deut. 7:6-11](#). What does this description, “holy race” mean?
9. Read [1 Kings 11:3-8](#). Why was intermarriage such a concern for God’s “holy race.”
10. Read the following comments from John Martin in the Bible Knowledge Commentary. Do you agree with Martin that intermarriage in Israel was a symptom of other sins?

If God's people married outside Israel they would be tempted (as was Solomon; [1 Kings 11:3-5](#)) to get caught up in pagan idolatrous worship. Intermarrying with people who did not worship Yahweh was symptomatic of the way the people forsook other aspects of God's Law. If they would break this aspect of the Law in the most intimate of human relationships then they would probably also break the Law in other less intimate human relationships.