

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TODAY.

>> WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS TODAY, THE PROGRAM WHERE YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND GOOD NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

>> I'M MARK TESKE, YOUR HOST FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. WE'VE GOT A GREAT PROGRAM. HERE'S WHAT'S COMING UP. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, AND THAT CONSISTS OF OUR SCRIPTURE READING, BEAUTIFUL SINGING, AND A BRIEF STUDY OF OUR SCRIPTURE. TODAY WE'LL BE LOOKING AT EZEKIEL 18:30-32, WHERE WE READ OF THE UNIVERSAL NEED FOR REPENTANCE. SO GET OUT YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO EZEKIEL 18. I'M GOING TO MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, WE HEAD OVER TO THE WORKSHOP, WHERE TROY SPRADLIN IS REPAIRING OUR UNDERSTANDING, AND NOBODY WANTS TO BE WRONG. JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT GOD AND U-TURNS. FREDDIE CLAYTON ANSWERS THE QUESTION: WHAT CAN YOU SAY WHEN YOU'RE GUILTY? IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN: CAN A PERSON SIN SO MUCH THAT THEY CAN'T BE FORGIVEN? WELL, WE'RE FOCUSING ON REPENTANCE TODAY, AND I HOPE YOU'LL STAY WITH US. LET'S OPEN UP OUR BIBLES TO EZEKIEL 18, WHERE WE READ TOGETHER BEGINNING AT VERSE 30, THEREFORE I WILL JUDGE YOU, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL, EVERY ONE ACCORDING TO HIS WAYS, SAYS THE LORD GOD. REPENT, AND TURN FROM ALL YOUR TRANSGRESSIONS, SO THAT YOUR INIQUITY WILL NOT BE YOUR RUIN. CAST AWAY FROM YOU ALL THE TRANSGRESSIONS WHICH YOU HAVE COMMITTED, AND GET YOURSELVES A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT. FOR WHY SHOULD YOU DIE, O HOUSE OF ISRAEL? FOR I HAVE NO PLEASURE IN THE DEATH OF ONE WHO DIES, SAYS THE LORD GOD. THEREFORE TURN AND LIVE!

>> (SINGING)

>> OUR PASSAGE TODAY WAS WRITTEN BY EZEKIEL, A PROPHET WHO WAS ALSO A PRIEST. HE WAS BORN IN JUDAH AND HAPPENED TO BE MARRIED, BUT HIS WIFE WAS KILLED DURING THE BABYLONIAN SIEGE, WE READ IN EZEKIEL 28:18. HE WAS ABOUT 25 YEARS OLD WHEN HE WAS CARRIED AWAY TO BABYLON IN THE SECOND WAVE OF THE CAPTIVITY. HE WAS WRITING ABOUT THE SAME TIME AS JEREMIAH. JEREMIAH WAS WRITING FROM JERUSALEM, WHEREAS EZEKIEL WAS WRITING FROM BABYLON. THE MESSAGE OF HIS BOOK IS TO HIGHLIGHT THE CAUSE FOR THE ISRAELITES' CAPTIVITY, BOTH TO THE NATION AND TO THE SURROUNDING NATIONS, SO EVERYBODY KNEW EXACTLY WHY THEY WERE EXPERIENCING WHAT THEY WERE. AND IT WAS ALSO TO TEACH INDIVIDUALS WITHIN THE NATION WHAT THEY MUST DO IN THEIR SITUATION, AND OVERALL GAVE HOPE TO THE NATION FOR THEIR EVENTUAL RETURN TO THEIR HOMELAND. OUR TEXT HERE IS FOCUSED ON THE NEED TO REPENT AND CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR. YOU SEE, GOD WILL JUDGE EACH INDIVIDUAL. THOUGH THE PASSAGE WE READ IS ADDRESSED TO THE NATION, REPENTANCE HAPPENS ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS; AND WHEN THOSE INDIVIDUAL BASES ARE ACCUMULATED, THAT'S THE REPENTANCE OF THE NATION. WE SEE A PATTERN IN SCRIPTURE THAT WHEN SIN HITS A TIPPING POINT, GOD DEALS WITH A NATION. GENESIS 6:5, BEFORE THE FLOOD, THE THOUGHTS OF MEN WERE ONLY EVIL CONTINUALLY. GENESIS 15:16, ISRAEL WOULD BE GIVEN THE LAND OF CANAAN WHEN THE INIQUITY OF THE AMORITES WAS COMPLETE. GENESIS 18, SODOM AND GOMORRAH

WERE DESTROYED BECAUSE THERE WEREN'T EVEN 10 RIGHTEOUS PEOPLE FOUND. AND THE PROPHETS ARE FILLED WITH EXAMPLES OF GOD DEALING WITH NATIONS. OUR TEXT TELLS US THEY NEED TO REPENT AND TURN SO THAT THEIR INIQUITY WOULD NOT BE THEIR RUIN. NOW, THE NATION WAS GOING TO BE PUNISHED WITH 70 YEARS OF CAPTIVITY; BUT THE INDIVIDUAL WILL BE PUNISHED ETERNALLY IF THEY CONTINUE IN THEIR SIN. SO EZEKIEL BY INSPIRATION IS TELLING THEM THEY NEED TO CAST AWAY ALL THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS. THEY NEED TO STOP SINNING, THEY NEED TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES. THAT'S REPENTANCE. THEY ALSO NEED TO GET A NEW HEART AND A NEW SPIRIT. THERE ARE SOME FOUNDATIONAL CHANGES THAT NEED TO BE MADE, GOING BACK TO THE VERY BASICS AND STARTING ALL OVER AGAIN. VINCE LOMBARDI, IN HIS SECOND YEAR COACHING THE GREEN BAY PACKERS, BEGAN PRACTICE, HELD OUT A FOOTBALL AND SAID, GENTLEMEN, THIS IS A FOOTBALL. WE NEED TO GET BACK TO THE BASICS. THESE ISRAELITES NEEDED TO DO THE SAME THING. EZEKIEL ASKED, WHY SHOULD YOU DIE? GOD HAS NO PLEASURE IN CONDEMNING PEOPLE. THERE'S NO POINT IN A LIFE THAT IS LIVED THAT RESULTS IN ETERNAL CONDEMNATION. LIFE IS ONLY MEANINGFUL IF WE MAKE IT TO HEAVEN. LIFE IS SHORT. JAMES TELLS US IT'S LIKE A VAPOR, JAMES 4:14, THAT VANISHES AWAY. AND AFTER LIFE, THERE'S NO CHANCE FOR US TO ACCEPT OR REJECT GOD'S OFFER. WE HAVE A LIMITED PERIOD OF TIME, SO TURN AND LIVE. THIS SHOULD BE OUR GOAL. AND IT'S ACTUALLY A TEAM GOAL, BECAUSE GOD WANTS YOU TO BE SAVED 1ST TIMOTHY 2:4, YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL; AND HE PUTS US ON A TEAM CALLED CHRISTIANS, OTHERS AROUND US TRYING TO DO THE SAME THING AND HELP EACH OTHER TO THAT GOAL. SO AS WE SEEK TO MAKE APPLICATION OF OURSELVES, WE REALLY NEED TO HAVE THAT ATTITUDE OF SIN AVOIDANCE. WE NEED TO REFORM OUR LIVES AND AVOID THOSE THINGS AND REALIZE THAT GOD ALLOWS U-TURNS. WE'RE GOING TO TALK ABOUT THAT HERE IN JUST A FEW MOMENTS. HE GIVES US SECOND CHANCES, THIRD CHANCES, AND GOES ON. MATTHEW 18:22, BE LIKE GOD, WHO FORGIVES NOT SEVEN TIMES, BUT 70 TIMES SEVEN. THAT'S NOT A LITERAL NUMBER, BUT AS OFTEN AS IT'S NEEDED. YOU SEE, GOD WANTS YOU TO BE WITH HIM FOR ETERNITY. THAT'S HIS WHOLE GOAL FOR YOU. THAT'S HIS PLAN FOR YOU. AND HE'S GOT A LOT INVESTED IN YOUR SALVATION, INCLUDING THE BLOOD OF HIS PRECIOUS SON. HE'S DONE A LOT TO HELP YOU GET TO HEAVEN. ARE YOU WILLING TO MEET HIM WHERE HE WANTS YOU TO? NOW IT'S UP TO US TO DO WHAT IT TAKES TO ACCEPT HIS GRACIOUS OFFER. THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. WELL, IT'S TIME FOR US TO VISIT THE WORKSHOP, WHERE TROY SPRADLIN HAS BEEN WORKING TO REPAIR OUR UNDERSTANDING, BECAUSE SOMEBODY IS WRONG ABOUT SOMETHING.

>> MOST OF US HAVE PRETTY STRONG CORE BELIEFS. AND THOSE BELIEFS ARE WHAT IS KNOWN AS OUR WORLDVIEW. AND WE DEVELOP THIS FROM THE CULTURE AND FAMILY ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH WE WERE RAISED AND FROM LIFE EXPERIENCES AND EVEN DEDUCTIONS THAT WE REACH ABOUT VARIOUS THINGS THAT WE'VE COME TO ACCEPT AS TRUTH. AND IT IS THE PRIMARY BASIS FOR HOW WE FUNCTION IN LIFE OR HOW WE MIGHT FEEL ABOUT OURSELVES AND EVEN HOW WE VIEW OTHER PEOPLE. YOU MIGHT EVEN BE ABLE TO THINK OF IT AS YOUR OPERATING SYSTEM. KIND OF LIKE HOW COMPUTERS AND PHONES REQUIRE AN OPERATING SYSTEM TO FUNCTION, WELL, YOUR WORLDVIEW SERVES THAT SAME PURPOSE. YET THERE ARE TIMES WHENEVER OUR WORLDVIEW CAN BE CHALLENGED; AND WHEN THAT HAPPENS, IT CAN TRIGGER A WHOLE LOT OF EMOTIONAL AND COGNITIVE AND BEHAVIORAL RESPONSES. OR TO PUT IT IN MORE SIMPLE TERMS, NO ONE LIKES TO BE WRONG. BUT DID YOU KNOW THAT BEING WRONG IS

SOMETIMES NECESSARY, ESPECIALLY WHEN IT COMES TO UNDERSTANDING AND LIVING BY GOD'S WILL? SO WHY DON'T WE REPAIR OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THIS TOPIC AND LOOK AT A FEW KEY REASONS WHY PEOPLE OFTEN GO TO GREAT LENGTHS TO AVOID BEING WRONG. NUMBER ONE COULD BE EGO AND SELF-IDENTITY. THAT IS, TO ADMIT BEING WRONG FEELS LIKE AN ATTACK ON OUR IDENTITY OR OUR SELF-WORTH BECAUSE WE VIEW BEING WRONG AS FAILURE INSTEAD OF SEEING IT AS A NATURAL PART OF LEARNING AND GROWING. AND YET THE BIBLE SAYS, LET NOTHING BE DONE THROUGH SELFISH AMBITION OR CONCEIT; BUT IN LOWLINESS OF MIND, LET EACH ESTEEM OTHERS BETTER THAN HIMSELF, PHILIPPIANS 2:3. SO THAT MEANS THAT IF YOU'RE WRONG ABOUT SOMETHING, DON'T LET YOUR EGO KEEP YOU FROM ACCEPTING THE TRUTH. A SECOND REASON MIGHT BE WHAT'S CALLED COGNITIVE DISSONANCE. AND THAT'S JUST A FANCY TERM FOR WHENEVER WE EXPERIENCE DISCOMFORT WHEN DEALING WITH SOMETHING THAT CONTRADICTS OUR BELIEFS OR OUR IDEAS. AND IF WE ADMIT THAT WE'RE WRONG, WELL, IT REQUIRES US TO FACE THAT DISCOMFORT, AND MOST PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO DO THAT. BUT THE BIBLE TEACHES US, DO NOT BE CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD, BUT BE TRANSFORMED BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND, THAT YOU MAY PROVE WHAT IS THE GOOD AND ACCEPTABLE AND PERFECT WILL OF GOD IN ROMANS 12:2. THAT MEANS THAT IF YOU'VE LEARNED YOU'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE LIVING IN SOME WORLDLY, SINFUL WAY, WELL, IT MIGHT BE UNCOMFORTABLE TO MAKE THE CHANGE, BUT DON'T LET THAT KEEP YOU FROM ACCEPTING THE TRUTH OF THE BIBLE. A THIRD REASON MIGHT BE SOCIAL JUDGMENT AND ACCEPTANCE. THAT'S BECAUSE WE'RE SOCIAL BEINGS, AND THE FEAR OF LOSING RESPECT OR STATUS OR EVEN SOCIAL ACCEPTANCE CAN BE A POWERFUL MOTIVATOR TO AVOID ADMITTING THAT YOU'RE WRONG. THAT'S WHY SO MANY PEOPLE REFUSE TO CONFESS CHRIST OR FOLLOW HIM, LIKE WE SEE IN JOHN 9 OR ACTS 17. WELL, DON'T LET FEAR OF WHAT OTHERS THINK KEEP YOU FROM DOING WHAT IS RIGHT ACCORDING TO THE BIBLE. A FOURTH ONE COULD BE CONFIRMATION BIAS. AND THIS IS SIMPLY HOW PEOPLE TEND TO FAVOR INFORMATION THAT ALREADY CONFIRMS WHAT THEY ALREADY BELIEVE. AND SUCH BIAS CAN MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT BEING WRONG. SO IF IT DOESN'T LINE UP WITH WHAT YOU THINK, THEN THEY JUST DISMISS IT. WELL, THAT WAS THE PHARISEES' PROBLEM. AND JESUS PLAINLY SAID TO THEM, YOU ARE MISTAKEN, NOT KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES NOR THE POWER OF GOD, IN MATTHEW 22:29. SO SOMETIMES WE CAN BE LIKE THOSE PHARISEES. WE JUST NEED TO BE TOLD THAT WE'RE WRONG WHEN WHAT WE THINK OR WHAT WE'RE DOING DOESN'T LINE UP WITH GOD'S WORD. NOW, THE WHOLE POINT OF ALL OF THIS IS SIMPLY TO SHOW YOU THAT THERE ARE MANY REASONS AS TO WHY NO ONE WANTS TO BE WRONG. BUT DO YOU REALIZE THAT OBEYING THE GOSPEL NATURALLY IMPLIES ADMITTING THAT YOU'RE WRONG? YOU SEE, IT IS ACCEPTING THAT YOU'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT HOW YOU VIEWED YOUR LIFE. AND IF YOU WANT TO BE RIGHT WITH GOD, THEN YOU NEED TO SUBMIT TO HIS COMMANDS. IT MEANS THAT YOU HAVE TO STOP LIVING YOUR LIFE HOW YOU THOUGHT IT SHOULD BE AND START LIVING HOW GOD SAYS IT SHOULD BE. THE BIBLE IS FULL OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE THEIR CORE BELIEFS ROCKED TO THE FOUNDATION. I MEAN, YOU THINK ABOUT THE PEOPLE AND ALL THROUGH THE BOOK OF ACTS THAT HAD THEIR WORLDVIEWS CHALLENGED, BECAUSE THE GOSPEL CERTAINLY CHALLENGES OUR WORLDVIEW. BUT SADLY, NOT EVERYONE CAN ACCEPT THAT BECAUSE OF SOME OF THE REASONS THAT WE MENTIONED EARLIER. YOU KNOW, NO ONE REALLY LIKES TO ADMIT THAT THEY'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT HOW THEY'VE BEEN LIVING OR VIEWING LIFE; BUT OUR WAYS AND OUR THOUGHTS ARE NOT HIS WAYS OR HIS THOUGHTS, SAYS ISAIAH 55:8 ABOUT GOD. AND GOD'S

WAYS ARE ALWAYS RIGHT AND TRUE. SO THE BOTTOM LINE IS THIS: SOMETIMES WE HAVE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE'VE BEEN WRONG ABOUT SOME THINGS IN ORDER TO GET OUR HEARTS RIGHT WITH GOD.

>> WE NEED TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ADMIT WHEN WE'RE WRONG IN MATTERS PERTAINING TO GOD. THANKS, TROY. WELL, WE'RE ABOUT TO GIVE YOU OUR CONTACT INFORMATION, AND THERE'S A FEW THINGS YOU CAN DO WITH IT. YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE THAT WE OFFER THROUGH THE MAIL. WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU ENROLL IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE SO ALREADY. YOU CAN ALSO EMAIL US WITH ANY QUESTIONS YOU MAY HAVE. WE'D LOVE TO ANSWER THOSE QUESTIONS, AND WE MAY DO SO DURING ONE OF OUR PROGRAMS. WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR AUDIENCE. JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US AFTER THIS FREE OFFER.

>> YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FREE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT US. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. AGAIN, THAT'S GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. YOU MAY PREFER TO E-MAIL US AT GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. OR CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-384-7221. THAT'S 1-877-384-7221. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. HEARING FROM OUR AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TO US.

>> THE EASIEST WAY TO ENROLL IN OUR BIBLE COURSE IS ON OUR WEBSITE AT GNTTV.ORG. JUST CLICK WHERE IT SAYS BIBLE COURSE, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION, AND WE'LL GET IT TO YOU. YOU CAN LISTEN TO GOOD NEWS TODAY AT ANY TIME THROUGH TRUTH.FM. THAT'S A GROUP OF RADIO STATIONS THAT STREAM OVER THE INTERNET. AND THERE'S A STATION THAT CARRIES NOTHING BUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. HERE'S JIM DEARMAN WITH SOME SOUND WORDS FOR US ABOUT U-TURNS.

>> THE BUMPER STICKER READ, IF YOU'RE HEADED IN THE WRONG DIRECTION, GOD ALLOWS U-TURNS. YOU KNOW, THAT IS BIBLE-BASED. THE PARABLE OF THE PRODIGAL SON IN LUKE 15 ILLUSTRATES THAT EVEN WHEN THE ROAD WE TRAVEL TAKES US FAR FROM THE FATHER AND INTO LIFE'S PIGPEN, WE CAN COME BACK HOME. A SCHOOLGIRL WHO WAS BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST WAS ASKED, WHAT WERE YOU BEFORE YOU BECAME A CHRISTIAN? HER ANSWER WAS, A SINNER. WHAT ARE YOU NOW? WAS THE NEXT QUESTION, AND HER ANSWER WAS THE SAME: A SINNER. SO WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? SHE WAS ASKED. THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN RESPONDED, BEFORE I REPENTED, I WAS A SINNER RUNNING AFTER SIN; BUT NOW I AM A SINNER RUNNING FROM SIN. IS REPENTANCE A NECESSARY STEP IN GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION? OH, ABSOLUTELY. JESUS SAID WE MUST REPENT OR PERISH, LUKE 13:3. HE ALSO TAUGHT THAT BELIEF IN HIM MUST PRECEDE REPENTANCE, THAT REPENTANCE MUST BE FOLLOWED BY A CONFESSION OF HIM AS THE CHRIST, AND THEN BURIAL IN BAPTISM FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS. THAT'S THE FULL U-TURN THAT GOD NOT ONLY ALLOWS BUT REQUIRES OF ALL WHO DESIRE TO BECOME CHRISTIANS. DO YOU NEED TO MAKE A U-TURN?

>> THANKS, JIM. HAVE YOU EVER MISSED AN EPISODE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY AND WISH YOU COULD WATCH IT? THERE'S A FEW WAYS YOU CAN DO THAT: THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, OR YOUTUBE. YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD OUR APP AND WATCH ON YOUR PHONE, YOUR TELEVISION, OR YOUR TABLET. THE PROGRAM IS

THERE EVERY SUNDAY, SO YOU NEVER HAVE TO MISS AN EPISODE. AND THOSE APPS, ALWAYS FREE OF CHARGE. NOW WE'RE GOING TO HEAD OVER TO THE PASTIME PORCH, WHERE FREDDIE CLAYTON IS WAITING FOR US. AND HE'S WONDERING WHAT YOU CAN SAY WHEN YOU'RE GUILTY.

>> JOSEPH'S BROTHERS WERE IN DIRE CIRCUMSTANCE. THEY STOOD WITH BENJAMIN, AND THEY WERE BEING QUESTIONED BY THE MOST POWERFUL MAN IN EGYPT. WE READ THIS, OF COURSE, IN GENESIS 41:40-42. THIS WASN'T THE FIRST TIME THAT THEY HAD BEEN THERE TO BUY GRAIN. THE FIRST TIME, THEY LEFT ALL THEIR MONEY THAT WAS GIVEN BACK TO THEM AND HIDDEN IN THEIR SACKS. THIS TIME WHEN THEY LEFT AND OPENED THEIR SACKS, THERE AGAIN, THEY FOUND THEIR MONEY, BUT THEY ALSO FOUND THE ROYAL CUP OF JOSEPH THAT HAD BEEN PLACED IN THEIR LITTLE BROTHER BENJAMIN'S SACK. THEY WERE GUILTY, AND THEY STOOD HELPLESS BEFORE JOSEPH. JUDAH WAS THE SPOKESMAN, BUT HE HAD NO DEFENSE. HE SAID, WHAT SHALL WE SAY TO MY LORD? WHAT SHALL WE SPEAK? HOW SHALL WE CLEAR OURSELVES? GENESIS 44:16. THEIR GUILT WAS OBVIOUS. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO JOSEPH. IT WAS OBVIOUS TO THEM. WHAT DEFENSE CAN THERE POSSIBLY BE GIVEN? HERE'S THEIR WORDS: WHAT ARE WE GOING TO SAY? WHAT CAN WE SAY? THESE SAME WORDS WERE SPOKEN BY EZRA, WHO WAS PART OF THE RESTORING OF ISRAEL AFTER THEIR 70 LONG YEARS IN BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY. THE TEMPLE HAD BEEN REBUILT BY ZERUBBABEL; AND WITH THE RETURN OF EZRA THE PRIEST, THE PEOPLE FOCUSED EVEN MORE ON LIVING ACCORDING TO WHAT GOD HAD TAUGHT. THE LEADERS CAME TO EZRA AND SPOKE OF THE UNLAWFUL MARRIAGES THE JEWS HAD MADE WITH THE PAGANS. THEY SAID, THE HOLY SEED IS MIXED WITH THE PEOPLE OF THESE LANDS. WHEN EZRA HEARD OF THIS, HE TORE HIS GARMENTS, LITERALLY PULLED HAIRS FROM HIS HEAD AND FROM HIS BEARD IN DESPAIR, AND AT THE TIME OF THE EVENING SACRIFICE, HE FELL TO HIS KNEES BEFORE GOD AND HE SPREAD OUT HIS HANDS. AND IN HIS PRAYER, HE CONFESSED THEIR SIN. THEY WERE GUILTY, AND THEY STOOD BEFORE A HOLY, HOLY, HOLY GOD AS SINFUL MEN. EZRA SAID, O, OUR GOD, WHAT SHALL WE SAY AFTER THIS? EZRA 9:10, FOR WE HAVE FORSAKEN YOUR COMMANDMENTS. GOD KNEW THEY WERE GUILTY. THEY KNEW THEY WERE GUILTY. THE WORDS OF THE PRIEST SUM IT UP SO WELL. WHAT SHALL WE SAY? THESE ARE TWO INTERESTING BIBLE STORIES THAT BOTH ILLUSTRATE THE PLIGHT OF ALL MANKIND WHO SOMEDAY SHALL STAND GUILTY BEFORE A HOLY GOD. TO PICTURE THAT DAY AS A COURTROOM SCENE ROBS IT OF ITS REALITY. IN THE COURTROOM, MEN STAND BEFORE THEIR PEERS; ON THAT DAY, WE'LL STAND BEFORE ALMIGHTY GOD. THOSE WHO ARE LOST WILL KNOW THEIR DESTINY AS THEY STAND THERE. THERE WILL BE NO LEGITIMATE EXCUSES. GOD KNOWS THEY'RE GUILTY. THEY KNOW THEY'RE GUILTY. FRIEND, THINK ABOUT THAT QUESTION WHICH COULD BE ASKED, WHAT CAN YOU SAY? WE MUST NOT FORGET THAT WE'LL BE THERE, TOO. THE PETTY EXCUSES WE OFFER TO OURSELVES TODAY WILL BE MEANINGLESS. FAITHFUL CHILDREN OF GOD WILL STAND IN AWE WITH HOPEFUL EXPECTATION; SINFUL MEN, LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS WILL COME AND COWER IN FEAR BEFORE THE ALMIGHTY GOD. FRIENDS, IF YOU'RE LOST NOW, YOU'LL BE LOST ON THAT DAY. YOU ARE GUILTY. WHAT SHALL YOU SAY TO OUR LORD?

>> THANKS, FREDDIE. WE NEED GOD'S MERCY WHEN WE'RE GUILTY, AND HE'S PROVIDED A WAY TO HAVE OUR SINS FORGIVEN AND GUILT REMOVED THROUGH FAITH, CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND BAPTISM FOR THE PURPOSE OF WASHING

AWAY THOSE SINS, ACTS 22:16. IF YOU HAVEN'T DONE THAT ALREADY, WE URGE YOU TO GET RIGHT WITH GOD. IN JUST A MOMENT, WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION.

>> (SINGING)

>> NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY AND TROY: CAN A PERSON SIN SO MUCH THAT THEY CAN'T BE FORGIVEN?

>> CAN A PERSON SIN SO MUCH THAT THEY CANNOT BE FORGIVEN? THAT'S OUR QUESTION FOR TODAY.

>> WOW. YOU KNOW, SUCH A HEARTFELT QUESTION. I'VE HAD PEOPLE COME IN MY OFFICE AND ASK ME THAT VERY QUESTION. AND IT COMES, I BELIEVE, FROM A PLACE OF FEELING GUILT OR CONCERN ABOUT THEIR SOUL, WHICH IS GREAT. THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO HAVE. BUT I THINK THE SHORT ANSWER IS NO, BECAUSE OF SCRIPTURE.

>> RIGHT. RIGHT. THERE'S NO LIMIT, RIGHT? NO LIMIT, UNLESS IT'S THE END, RIGHT?

>> OH, THERE YOU GO. UNLESS IT'S THE END.

>> UNLESS IT'S THE END. LET'S NOTICE MATTHEW. LET'S NOTICE MATTHEW. LET'S NOTICE MATTHEW CHAPTER 18. MATTHEW 18:21-22, THE LORD, AS PETER COMES AND ASKS HIM, PETER SAYS, LORD, HOW OFTEN SHALL MY BROTHER SIN AGAINST ME AND SHALL I FORGIVE HIM? TILL SEVEN TIMES SHALL I FORGIVE HIM OF THAT WHICH HE'S DONE, THAT SIN THAT HE'S TRANSGRESSED AGAINST ME? AND THE LORD'S RESPONSE TO THAT IS, NO, TILL 70 TIMES SEVEN IS THE AMOUNT OF WHICH YOU SHOULD CONTINUE TO FORGIVE YOUR BROTHER. AND SO IMAGINE PETER'S FACE AS THE LORD SAYS THAT. YOU WERE THINKING SEVEN AND THE LORD SAYS 70 TIMES SEVEN. SO WHAT'S THE REAL IDEA HERE THAT CHRIST IS TRYING TO GET ACROSS?

>> IS THAT THERE IS NO LIMIT. AND I THINK THAT PARALLELS WELL WITH MARK 3:28 WHEN HE SAYS, ASSUREDLY I SAY TO YOU, ALL SINS WILL BE FORGIVEN THE SONS OF MEN, AND WHATEVER BLASPHEMIES THAT YOU UTTER. SO HOW MUCH IS ALL? I MEAN, THAT'S EVERYTHING. THERE'S ALL. THERE IS NO LIMIT TO IT.

>> RIGHT. AND SO WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT LIKE IN MATTHEW 18, AS WE USE THAT WORD FORGIVE, IN VERSE 21 AND 22 THAT WORD FORGIVE IS APHIEMI. THAT'S THE GREEK WORD, WHICH MEANS TO LET GO.

>> LET GO.

>> LET GO. WHICH MEANS TO LEAVE, TO PARDON. AND SO THEREFORE, YOU CAN'T KEEP COUNTING. IF YOU SAY I FORGIVE YOU, I CAN'T SAY THE NEXT TIME THAT YOU SIN OR TRANSGRESS OR WRONG ME, OKAY, THAT WAS TWO, TROY. BECAUSE GUESS WHAT? YOU STARTED OVER. RIGHT?

>> YOU STARTED OVER.

>> YOU STARTED OVER. SO IF I TRULY FORGAVE YOU, I DIDN'T HAVE TO FORGET WHAT YOU DID; I'M JUST NOT GOING TO KEEP A TALLY OF IT. AND THAT'S WHAT GOD IS TRYING TO GET ACROSS. THE PERSON WHO SITS HERE AND

TRIES TO COUNT, OKAY, YOU SINNED AGAINST ME ONCE, TWICE, THREE TIMES, TRIES TO GET TO 70, YOU MISSED THE PICTURE.

>> EXACTLY.

>> YOU MISSED THE POINT.

>> AND EVEN IN YOUR OWN PERSONAL SIN, YOU KNOW, THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK THAT IT'S LIKE THEY KEEP STRUGGLING WITH IT. WELL, STILL, HE SAYS ALL SIN WILL BE FORGIVEN. SO REALLY, I THINK IT COMES DOWN, ONE OF THE ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTION IS THE ONLY SIN THAT CAN'T BE FORGIVEN IS THE ONE UNREPENTED OF. IF YOU DON'T REPENT OF THAT SIN, THAT'S THE ONE THAT WILL NOT BE FORGIVEN.

>> AMEN.

>> 2ND CORINTHIANS 7:8-10 TELL US THAT GODLY SORROW PRODUCES REPENTANCE, LEADING TO SALVATION. IT TAKES HONESTY AND HUMILITY. MAKING A U-TURN AWAY FROM SIN AND TOWARDS GOD IS A PART OF HAVING OUR SINS FORGIVEN. WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ALWAYS CHECK ALL RELIGIOUS TEACHING AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD TO SEE IF THESE THINGS ARE TRUE, ACTS 17:11. YOU CAN WATCH OR LISTEN TO OUR PROGRAM AGAIN IF YOU NEED TO HEAR IT AGAIN, MAKE SURE YOU CAUGHT WHAT WE SAID, MAYBE HAVE SOME EXTRA TIME TO CHECK THE SCRIPTURES. YOU CAN DO THAT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, THROUGH OUR APPS, OR THROUGH OUR PODCASTS. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION, CONTACT US. WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU. KNOW THAT WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY