



New Holiness

Ezra 9-10

The Big Question: How should we respond when we find that within our community of believers - either we ourselves or others in our church family - are no longer walking in holiness & obedience to the Word of God?

Scene 1 - One of These Things Is Just Like The Others

SIN REPORTED

God's people are losing their distinctiveness because of their inter-faith marriages

Scene 2 - A Broken & Contrite Heart

SIN CONFESSED

Full of shame & disgrace, Ezra falls apart & confesses the sin on behalf of the whole nation.

Scene 3 - From Remorse to Repentance

SIN REPUDIATED

Ezra's confession & sorrow is compelling & convicting - leading the men of Israel to make the difficult choice to separate from & divorce their pagan wives.

Answer to the Big Question: When we find that in our community of believers - either we ourselves, or others in our church family are no longer walking in holiness & obedience to God's word, we must:

1. Confess our sins
2. Repent from our sinful behavior
3. Renew our commitment to live as God's holy people.

1 Peter 2:9-12 9 ¶ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people of his own, so that you may proclaim the virtues of the one who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. 10 You once were not a people, but now you are God's people. You were shown no mercy, but now you have received mercy. 11 ¶ Dear friends, I urge you as foreigners and exiles to keep away from fleshly desires that do battle against the soul, 12 and maintain good conduct among the non-Christians, so that though they now malign you as wrongdoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God when he appears.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. As you begin to talk about today's message, start by retelling the story. Help each other fill in any gaps & remind one another of what happened from the beginning to the end.
2. What stood out to you about:
 - God's character?
 - God's requirements of his people?
3. What stood out to you about:
 - People and their tendencies
 - Yourself and your own tendencies
4. How does this passage point to our need for Jesus & his work as our great high priest?
5. What else stood out to you from this message/passage?
6. What can you/will you do to help our church family maintain our distinctiveness? (See Gal 6:1-5)
7. How can you call out other people's sin without being "holier than thou?" (See Ezra's example)

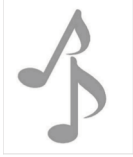
FURTHER REFLECTION

- Memorize 1 Peter 2:9-12
- Reflect on Gal 6:1-5
- Listen to some songs about holiness & surrender
 - [Casting Crowns - Slow Fade](#)
 - [Withholding Nothing Medley](#)
 - [Jonathan McReynolds - Make Room](#)
 - [Be Ye Holy](#)

Sermon Notes

Name: _____ Date: _____

What was your favourite song?



Who is preaching?



What is the main Bible passage?

Book:

Chapter:

Verse:

What can we learn from this passage?

Draw a picture of something you heard today, either in a song or in the sermon.

What I want to pray about.



Words I heard but don't understand.



Choose today Whom
You Will Serve



But as for me and
My House We Will
Serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

I can
keep

God's
Word.

