

Ezra 10 - True Repentance

In Ezra 9 there was an issue raised because the people had not remained separate...they had married those from foreign nations and became unfaithful to God...Ezra began to confess the sin of the people in an effort to rectify the situation. This chapter is a continuation of that...and shows example of True Repentance.

Ezr 10:1-44 NIV While Ezra was praying and confessing, weeping and throwing himself down before the house of God, a large crowd of Israelites--men, women and children--gathered around him. ***They too wept bitterly.***

True Repentance is More Than Sorrow

- Confessing, weeping and throwing ourselves down - does not necessarily mean repentance has taken place
- Godly Sorrow ***PRODUCES Repentance***
 - 2Co 7:10 NIV ***Godly sorrow brings repentance*** that leads to salvation and leaves no regret, but ***worldly sorrow brings death.***

Examples of Worldly Sorrow

- **Admission of Wrong - did not work repentance- no change** [this was the plague of hail]
 - Exo 9:27-28 NIV Then Pharaoh summoned Moses and Aaron. "This time I have sinned," he said to them. "The LORD is in the right, and ***I and my people are in the wrong.*** (28) Pray to the LORD, for we have had enough thunder and hail. I will let you go; you don't have to stay any longer."
- **Pharaoh Asked Forgiveness of His Sin - Yet No Repentance - no change** [this was the plague of locusts]
 - Exo 10:16-17 NIV Pharaoh quickly summoned Moses and Aaron and said, "***I have sinned against the LORD*** your God and against you. (17) ***Now forgive my sin*** once more and pray to the LORD your God to take this deadly plague away from me."
- **Judas Acknowledged His Sin in Betraying Jesus - Yet No Repentance - no change**
 - Mat 27:4-5 ESV saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." (5) And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself.

True Repentance is Toward the LORD

- Psa 51:4 NIV Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are right in your verdict and justified when you judge.

From Ezra 10

vs 1 - throwing himself down before the **house of God**

vs 2 - We have been **unfaithful to our God**

vs 3 - Now let us **make a covenant before our God**

vs 11 - Now **honor the LORD**, the God of your ancestors, and **do his will**.

True Repentance Has HOPE - Because of the Nature of God

(2) Then Shekariah son of Jehiel, one of the descendants of Elam, said to Ezra, "***We have been unfaithful to our God*** by marrying foreign women from the peoples around us. But in spite of this, ***there is still hope for Israel***."

- Exo 34:5-7 NIV Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. 6 And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, "The LORD, the LORD, the **compassionate** and **gracious** God, **slow to anger**, abounding in **love** and **faithfulness**, 7 maintaining love to thousands, and **forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin**. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation."
- Lam 3:22-23 KJV It is of the LORD'S **mercies** that we are not consumed, because his **compassions** fail not. 23 They are new every morning: great is thy **faithfulness**.
- 1Jn 1:9 NIV If we confess our sins, he is **faithful** and **just** and will **forgive** us our sins and **purify** us from all unrighteousness.

True Repentance Is Not Always Easy

(3) Now ***let us make a covenant before our God*** to send away all these women and their **children**, in accordance with the **counsel** of my lord and of those who fear the commands of our God. Let it be done **according to the Law**. (4) Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so ***take courage and do it***." (5) So Ezra rose up and put the leading priests and Levites and all Israel under oath to do what had been suggested. And they took the oath.

- They made a **covenant** to do a certain thing
 - It was with godly counsel ***counsel*** from those who fear the commands of God
 - It was ***according to the Law***
- **BUT It took courage**
 - Think of **Zacchaeus** going back to those he had stolen from
 - Think of having to go and repent for lying

- Friend who got saved - he was **AWOL** - but turned himself in

True Repentance Has Fruit - in Other Words - Evidence of Change

Fruit comes with ACCOUNTABILITY

(6) Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and went to the room of Jehohanan son of Eliashib. While he was there, he ate no food and drank no water, because **he continued to mourn over the unfaithfulness of the exiles.** (7) A proclamation was then issued throughout Judah and Jerusalem for all the exiles to assemble in Jerusalem. (8) **Anyone who failed to appear within three days would forfeit all his property,** in accordance with the decision of the officials and elders, and would himself be expelled from the assembly of the exiles.

Fruit comes with ACTION

(9) Within the three days, all the men of Judah and Benjamin had gathered in Jerusalem. And on the twentieth day of the ninth month, all the people were sitting in the square before the house of God, greatly distressed by the occasion and because of the rain. (10) Then Ezra the priest stood up and said to them, "You have been unfaithful; you have married foreign women, adding to Israel's guilt. (11) ***Now honor the LORD, the God of your ancestors, and do his will. Separate yourselves from the peoples around you and from your foreign wives.***"

The one who WENT did the will of the Father

- Mat 21:28-31 NIV "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' (29) "'I will not,' he answered, but **later he changed his mind and went.** (30) "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. (31) **"Which of the two did what his father wanted?"**

Demonstrate Repentance By Your Deeds

- Act 26:20 NIV First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and **demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.**
 - **Demonstrate** - perform repeatedly or habitually (thus differing from G4160, which properly refers to a single act); by implication to execute, accomplish, etc

John the Baptist Expected FRUIT

- Luk 3:7-14 NIV8 Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. 10 **"What should we do then?"** the crowd asked. 11 John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should **share** with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same." 12 Even tax collectors came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" 13 **"Don't collect any more than you are required to,"** he told them. 14 Then some soldiers asked

him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "**Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely--be content with your pay.**"

THERE WILL ALWAYS BE HINDRANCES, INCONVENIENCES & OPPOSITION -

- These can be stumbling blocks to stop your move toward repentance
- Or they can be stepping stones to find a solution
- Don't take the easy road and stop short of true repentance

(12) The whole assembly responded with a loud voice: "**You are right! We must do as you say.**"
(13) **But there are many people** here and it is the **rainy season**; so **we cannot stand outside.** Besides, this matter **cannot be taken care of in a day or two**, because we have sinned greatly in this thing. (14) Let our officials act for the whole assembly. Then let everyone in our towns who has married a foreign woman come at a set time, along with the elders and judges of each town, **until the fierce anger of our God in this matter is turned away from us.** (15) **Only Jonathan son of Asahel and Jahzeiah son of Tikvah, supported by Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite, opposed this.** (16) So the exiles did as was proposed. Ezra the priest selected men who were family heads, one from each family division, and all of them designated by name. On the first day of the tenth month they sat down to investigate the cases, (17) and by the first day of the first month they finished dealing with all the men who had married foreign women.

vs 18-44 list of those who had taken foreign wives