

The People's Confession of Sin - Ezra 10:1-44

Topics: Accountability, Actions, Advice, Commitment, Confession, Convictions, Disobedience, Emotions, Fasting, Feelings, Forgiveness, Grief, Guidance, Humility, Marriage, Mourning, Obedience, Reconciliation, Relationships, Repentance, Sin, Sorrow, Unfaithfulness, Wives

Open It

- * 1. How do you usually feel when you realize you've made a big mistake?
- 2. When do you tend to feel guilty?

Explore It

- 3. What was Ezra doing? (10:1)
- 4. Why was Ezra so upset? (10:1)
- 5. Why did a large crowd gather around Ezra? (10:1)
- 6. Why did Ezra wait for the Israelites to come up with their own plan to solve their problem? (10:1-2)
- 7. Who offered a ray of hope to the guilt-ridden Israelites? (10:2)
- * 8. What advice did Shecaniah give to the Israelites? (10:3)
- 9. What role did Ezra play in the repentance of Israel? (10:5)
- 10. Why did Ezra withdraw from the house of the Lord? (10:6)
- 11. How was the covenant the Israelites made before God enforced? (10:8)
- * 12. What specific instructions did Ezra give to the Israelites? (10:10-11)
- 13. How did the people respond to Ezra's call to repentance? (10:12-14)
- 14. Why was the Israelites' problem not resolved immediately? (10:13)
- * 15. How did the Israelites turn from their sin and reconcile themselves with God? (10:16-17)

Get It

- 16. In what specific ways did Ezra demonstrate his wisdom as a leader?
- 17. What character traits of Ezra would you like to see evidenced in your own life?
- 18. What can we learn from this story about how to deal with sin?
- 19. Why do you think it was necessary for the Israelites to take such drastic measures to deal with their sin?
- 20. Of what benefit was it for the Israelites to confess as an entire group?
- * 21. How has this passage changed your attitude toward sin and repentance?
- 22. Under what circumstances do you think it is wise to repent of sin in the presence of other believers?
- * 23. When is it wrong to feel guilty?
- 24. How do you think God wants us to feel after we have repented of sin?
- 25. In what specific ways should Christians separate themselves from the world nowadays?
- 26. What concrete action could you take to guard yourself against the world's temptations?

Apply It

- * 27. The next time the Lord convicts you of sin, what can you plan to do in response?
- 28. In what practical way can you limit the negative influence others have on you?