

Built for Worship
Ezra 9: Disobedience and Confession

Do you pray?

Your mission, should you choose to accept it (v.1-2)

“The people of Israel, including the priests & the Levites, have not kept themselves separate from the neighbouring peoples with their detestable practices... And the leaders and officials have led the way in this unfaithfulness.” (v.1-2)

Only God’s grace could save us from the depths of our sin (v.3-9)

“When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled” (v.3)

Confession for the past (v.6-7)

“Our sins are higher than our heads and our guilt has reached the heavens” (v.6)

Acknowledgement of God’s grace (v.8-9)

“But now...”

“The Lord our God has been gracious” (v.8)

“He has shown us kindness” (v.9)

“He has granted us new life” (v.9)

Only God’s grace can keep us in fellowship with Him (v.10-15)

Recognition of current plight (v.10-12)

“We have forsaken your commands” (v.10)

Thrown onto God’s mercy and grace (v.13-15)

“you have punished us less than our sins deserved” (v.13)

Digging Deeper questions for discussion and reflection

Do you pray?

How would you describe your prayer life in 3 words?

What aspects of a relationship with God would you say are missing in the ways that you pray?

Your mission, should you choose to accept it (v.1-2)

Do you tend to shrink back from challenges or to face and tackle them?

What challenges in life have caused you to grow most in your faith in Jesus?

Why can sin be described as 'unfaithfulness' towards God?

Only God's grace could save us from the depths of our sin (v.3-9)

Why do you think we often aren't appalled by sin in our lives or the lives of others? In what way is sin a collective responsibility for Christians?

What do you make of this statement by Tim Keller? "The gospel is this: We are more sinful and flawed in ourselves than we ever dared believe, yet at the very same time we are more loved and accepted in Jesus Christ than we ever dared hope."

When you became a Christian, did you feel the weight of sin lifted off your shoulders?

Only God's grace can keep us in fellowship with Him (v.10-15)

Are there certain sins that you keep battling with, even though you are a Christian? What do you do with them?

What did Ezra do with the current plight of God's people?

Why not read/reflect/pray through Psalm 51, 103 or 130, & throw yourself onto God's mercy in Christ?!