



Ezra 9-10

The Good The Bad & The Ugly

- I. The _____ — God's Word and Spirit always accomplish His purposes. (*Ezra 9:1-2; Isaiah 55:11; John 16:8*)
 - a. The Word of God never returns void but always _____ what God _____. (*Ezra 9:1-2; Isaiah 55:11*)
 - b. The Spirit of God _____ us, which is the first step toward _____. (*Ezra 9:3-4; John 16:8*)
 - c. The earnest prayer of a _____ and _____ heart God never despises. (*Ezra 9:5-15; Psalm 51:17; James 4:8-10*)
- II. The BAD —
 - a. Certain sins easily _____ us and require honest confession. (*Ezra 9:6-12; Hebrews 12:1*)
 - b. Sometimes all we can do is acknowledge our _____, accept God's _____, and plead for His _____. (*Ezra 9:13-15*)
- III. The _____ —
 - a. Sometimes our sin leaves us with only the _____ of the _____ options. (*Ezra 10:2-3*)
 - b. Sometimes dealing with sin requires us to be _____, _____, and _____. (*Ezra 10:4-5*)
 - c. Sometimes we must deal with our sin at _____ moments. (*Ezra 10:6-14*)
 - d. Sometimes it takes _____ to deal with our sin. (*Ezra 10:9, 16-17*)
 - e. Sometimes dealing with our sin will _____ us. (*Ezra 10:15*)
 - f. Even when forgiven, sin often leaves _____. (*Ezra 10:18-44*).



Diving Deeper in Scripture Together

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

Ezra 9-10

1. Scripture teaches that God's Word never returns empty but always accomplishes His purpose (Isaiah 55:11). How does Ezra 9:1-2 demonstrate the convicting power of sustained, faithful preaching? How does this shape your expectations for Scripture's work in your life, even when change feels slow or unseen?
2. God's Word exposed hidden compromise rather than superficial sins. Why does Scripture often confront root issues rather than visible symptoms first? What areas of your life might God be gently but persistently exposing through His Word?
3. Ezra's response shows deep grief over sin rather than defensiveness. Why is conviction a grace rather than a condemnation? How do you typically respond when God's Word confronts sin- with tenderness, resistance, or distraction?
4. Scripture distinguishes between those who "tremble at the Word" (Ezra 9:4) and those who do not. Why is reverent responsiveness a mark of spiritual health? What helps cultivate a heart that trembles at God's Word rather than allowing it to become desensitized?
5. The prohibition against intermarriage was spiritual, not racial. Why does Scripture consistently warn against alliances that pull hearts away from God? Where do you feel pressure to normalize relationships or habits that subtly weaken your devotion to the Lord?
6. Ezra does not excuse sin, minimize it, or blame others. Why does Scripture present humility as the proper posture before a holy God?
7. Scripture treats repeated sin seriously without declaring it unforgivable. Why is perseverance in repentance essential to spiritual growth? How can you fight familiar sins without losing hope or becoming complacent?

8. Ezra admits that God punished them less than they deserved (Ezra 9:13). Why does recognizing God's mercy deepen repentance rather than weaken it? How does gratitude for grace motivate obedience more effectively than fear of punishment?
9. Scripture shows that some sins create situations with no painless solutions. Why does the Bible refuse to sanitize the consequences of sin? How does this sober reality shape the way you view temptation and compromise?
10. God's solution was severe because the sin was dangerous. Why does holiness sometimes require costly obedience? Where might God be asking you to choose faithfulness even when it is personally painful?
11. God required immediate attention even during hardship and discomfort. Why does urgency matter in repentance? What step of obedience might God be calling you to take now, rather than later?
12. Scripture shows repentance interrupting normal life. Why is there rarely a "convenient" time to deal seriously with sin? What excuses most often delay your obedience when God calls you to change?
13. The process of restoration took months. Why does Scripture allow space for slow, careful repentance rather than instant resolution? How does patience with God's process help you avoid discouragement?
14. Not everyone agreed with the solution. Why does faithfulness sometimes divide even God's people? How do you respond when obedience to God brings misunderstanding or opposition?
15. Which part of this passage most unsettles you- the conviction, the cost, or the consequences- and why?
16. What does faithful obedience look like for you this week in light of Ezra 9-10?
17. How can this group pray for one another to tremble at God's Word, trust His mercy, and walk in holiness- even when the path is hard?