

## The Reality of Repentance

### Ezra 9-10

By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show the reality of sin and how it makes life so much more painful than it has to be.

Intro: 1. Throughout the Bible we find examples of sin, repentance and forgiveness.  
2. Ezra records one of the most pain examples of sin and repentance in the Bible, sin that affects families.

#### I. The Reason for Repentance

##### A. The Sin requiring repentance (**Ez 9:1-2**)

1. The people had not separated themselves from the people of the land.
  - i. They had married people of the land against God's command.

##### B. The immediate response (**Ez 9:3-4**)

1. Expression of astonishment.
2. People came tremble in fear because of the words of God that came because of this sin.
3. The feeling of heaviness due to sin (**Ez 9:5a**)

#### II. The Reality of Repentance

##### A. Recognizing fault

1. Admission of sin (**Ez 9:5-6**)
2. God was gracious and punished them less than they deserved (**Ez 9:13-15**)

##### B. Enduring the pain, guilt and humiliation of sin

1. While Ezra was praying and weeping (**Ez 9:5ff**) the people come to him weeping over their sin (**Ez 10:1-2**)
  - a. Their sin had to cease before true repentance and forgiveness could take place (**Ez 10:3-5**)
2. Ezra mourned over the guilt and sin of the people (**Ez 10:6b**)
3. The humiliation – told their sin by Ezra and they people responded “Yes! As you have said, so we must do.” (**Ez 10:11-12**)
  - a. Their sin was public and known to all. Even their names are recorded here. Everyone one of them had to repent in order to avoid God's wrath (**Ez 10:44**).

#### III. Lessons for Us Today

##### A. Repentance can be painful

1. Ezra is shown in these chapters as weeping, trembling and praying because of the sin and guilt of the people.
2. Moving to the new testament others trembled when they realized they were in error – Saul did (**Acts 9:6**)

##### B. Godly sorrow brings the desire to be forgiven.

1. These people wanted to be forgiven (**Ez 10:12**)
2. Godly sorrow is a painful thing, but the forgiveness that results is absolutely necessary (**2 Cor 7:10a**)

Application & Conclusion:

1. We can learn from the events in Ezra that sin must be repented of no matter how painful it may be (**Ez 10:44**)
2. Let us learn from these people and come to God desiring forgiveness no matter how painful and difficult it might be.
3. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11-12, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent & Pray: James 5:16, 1 John 1:9