

Restoring the Broken
November 26, 2006

“Prayer Works!”
Ezra 9:1-10:4

Introduction:

This morning we conclude our series in Ezra by considering the Israelites response to the sin present within their community. God’s work of restoration in our lives depends upon our response when confronted with our sinfulness.

Interpretation:

The appropriate response to sin in our lives is a full _____ followed by a prayer of _____.

Application:

Going Deeper

1. Consider John 16:7-11, when was the last time you remember the Holy Spirit convicting you of the three things listed in this passage?
2. Before being confronted by the prophet Nathan, King David hid his adulteress relationship with Bathsheba, as well as his involvement in the murder of her husband, Uriah, for nine months. Reading the following passages, what can we learn about how best to respond when we sin?
 - Psalm 32:3-7
 - Psalm 38:2-8
 - 2 Samuel 12:1-13
 - Psalm 51
3. Describe your habit of confession (when/where, with whom) and your history of repentance from sin? (James 5:16, 1 John 1:9)
4. Do you have particular sin/s in your life that you have had trouble overcoming? If so, what biblical steps of full confession and/or repentance might be missing from the process in your experience of restoration? (2 Chronicles 7:14)
5. How does Ezra's concern about the limits of God's patience and the certainty of judgment affect your response to sin? (Ezra 9:14, Romans 2:4, 1 Cor. 3:13-15, 2 Peter 3:9)

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