



INTRODUCTION

Ezra begins to check on God's people to see if they are obeying God's Word. The people have disobeyed God by marrying foreigners. Ezra and the people respond to the gravity of their sin and repent by having all the wrongful marriages undone.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

What in the text/sermon convicted you? What led you to worship Christ?

1. Embrace your need for the resurrection

Do you think Ezra's response to the people's sin was appropriate? Why is God's concern about worship, not ethnicity? Why do you think it is necessary that we embrace our guilt before God? Do you ever feel like your "iniquities have risen higher than your head?" Consider reading Luke 18:9-14 (How does this story connect with Ezra?)

Where have you fallen short of the glory of God? Have a time of confession corporately or in smaller small groups.

2. Savor the grace in the resurrection

What is your experience of rejoicing in grace? Is it something that is abstract or has it become personal? Why is it important for us to realize that we did not contribute to our salvation? What does it feel like to be forgiven? Do you ever feel like the Israelites who keep relapsing? How does this magnify God's grace?

3. Walk in the power of the resurrection

Matthew mentioned that obedience always follows salvation and that when the order is reversed the gospel is destroyed. Do you agree? Why or why not? If you believed 100% that Jesus walked out of the grave and now reigns in heaven, what would change about your life? How would you walk in greater holiness and mission? How is our holiness and mission linked to the resurrection? Consider looking again at 1 Peter 2:9-11.

Who is one person you could pray for this week to come to know Christ, and how might you take one step in that direction?