

king's chapel

Community Group Discussion Guide

Week of April 26th, 2015

This Week's Focus: After an encounter with God, which causes them to break into celebration, the believers now come face to face with their own sin and depravity. The community gathers to confess their sin and remember God's goodness and covenantal promises.

This Week's Text: Nehemiah 9:1-8

*"This is where most of us go astray. Our thoughts of God are not great enough; we fail to reckon with the reality of His limitless wisdom and power. Because we are limited and weak, we imagine that at some points God is too. We think of God as too much like what we are. **J. I Packer***

*Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, so now, not only as in my presence but much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you, both to will and to work for his good pleasure. **Philippians 2:12-13***

Related Texts: Psalm 19:1, 90:2; Romans 15:4, 15:13; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 5:23; 2 Corinthians 13:5; James 4:4; Isaiah 42:6-7; Genesis 15

Observations and Questions for Discussion:

- What about this week's text/sermon most inspired you?
- What does the word sanctification mean? Explain how it is both an event and a process.
Reference 1 Corinthians 6:9-11 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23.
 - What are the dangers of understanding sanctification solely as an event?
 - What gospel truth dispels the error of this thinking?
 - What are the dangers of understanding sanctification solely as a process?
 - What gospel truth dispels the error of this thinking?
- Describe the story unfolding in Nehemiah chapters 7-9.

- What propelled the people to make a great confession, exalt their great Creator, and rejoice in the great covenant?
- Describe Israel's posture as they publicly confessed their sins. Reference verses 1-2. How does the description of their outward appearance express their inward condition? What principle can we draw from this?
- Verse 2 states that the "Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners." Why was this important?
- Define worldliness. As the people of God, how do we effectively separate ourselves from the evils of world (James 4:4) without isolating ourselves from the world in which we are called to gospelize (Deuteronomy 4:5-7; Isaiah 42:6-7; Matthew 5:13-16)?
- Discuss how the following three words can help us faithfully engage culture: receive, reject, redeem.
- What can we learn about the nature of God from Israel's prayer? Reference verses 5-8.
- How does having an accurate, high view of God exterminate sin and its effects? Are your prayers filled with words of adoration?
- Verse 6, along with passages such as Psalm 19, it is stated that the creation exalts the Creator. Why then, do people refuse to praise and glorify the Creator?
- What are the promises of the Abrahamic covenant? Reference Genesis 17:1-8.
 - How did God guarantee his promises? Reference Genesis 15:8-21.
 - How does this relate to God's righteousness as described in Nehemiah 9:8?
- How does Nehemiah 9:1-8 point to Jesus?

Next Week's Text: Nehemiah 9