

Reflection Questions

1. Reflect on some of the ways God has challenged or encouraged you during the Nehemiah series. Would you consider sharing that by sending an email to mystory@theroadfc.org?
2. What is the first thing that comes to your mind when you think of confession? Why do you think that is the case? Do you view confession differently in light of Sunday's message?
3. Sin is never just personal. Reflect on some of the ways your brokenness is connected to the sin of others. Pray a corporate prayer of confession. "God, we have fallen short! Forgive us and make us new."

Prayer for Those Searching for Truth:

Lord Jesus, you claim to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Grant that I might be undaunted by the cost of following you as I consider the reasons for doing so. If what you claim is true, please guide me, teach me, and open me to the reality of who you are. Give me an understanding of you that is coherent and convincing, and that leads to the life you promise. Amen.

Prayer of Belief:

Lord Jesus Christ, I admit that I am weaker and more sinful than I ever dared admit, but through you I am more loved and accepted than I ever dared hope. I thank you for paying my debt on the cross, taking what I deserved in order to offer me complete forgiveness. Knowing that you have been raised from the dead, I turn from my sins and receive you as my Savior and Lord. Amen.



Nehemiah 9:1-3
November 22, 2015

Chapter Eight Recap

The Jewish people wanted to have the word (law) of God read over them as a way of gaining a corporate identity.

As the law was being read, however, they began to weep because they realized that they couldn't fulfill the whole law all the time. Nehemiah and other leaders call them to joy because of the grace written into the law. God had written into the law a way to be made right with Him despite all the ways they had disobeyed the law.

In other words, God does not leave us in our guilt! This is particularly true in light of Christ who has, by his death, made it possible for us to be counted righteous.

Joy & Mourning

There is a relationship between joy and mourning & praise and confession. Our joy is increased after we have known what it is to mourn. Our praise for His forgiveness is strengthened when we have cause for confession.

The Christian calendar also connects joy and mourning.

Advent = season of joy and anticipation

Lent = 40 day season marked with self-denial, prayer, & fasting as we recognize our sinfulness before God.

Easter = 50 day season in celebration of resurrection, new life, and victory in Christ.

Confession

In all that has happened to us, you have remained righteous; you have acted faithfully, while we acted wickedly. -Nehemiah 9:33 (NIV)

For the people of God, mourning led them to confession.

The Greek root of the word confession means “to acknowledge or agree.”

Confession is acknowledging the beauty of Christ against our brokenness; and naming the ways in which we fall short.

The Hebrew root of the word confession means “to praise.”

Because confession involves seeing the beauty of Christ, it is often preceded by or followed by praise!

The pattern of confession we see in Nehemiah is:

- praise
- confession
- renewed commitment to God (chpt. 10)

There must be room in our walk with Christ for confession for us to continue to grow!

Nehemiah 9:5b-28; 33

Notice the worship along with the confession.

Notice how the confession is within a context (a story).

Notice the declarations of God’s character.

NOTES:

Our Corporate Confession of Faith

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.