

# From Brokenness to Healing: Flee Unholiness and Pursue Holiness

(Ezra 10:1-44 ESV)

## Stage 1: The People Confess (10:1-4)

- While Ezra prayed and made confession, weeping and casting himself down before the house of God, a very great assembly of men, women, and children, **gathered** to him out of Israel, for the people **wept** bitterly. And Shecaniah the son of Jehiel, of the sons of Elam, addressed Ezra:
- “We **have broken** faith with our God and **have married** foreign women from the peoples of the land, but even now there is hope for Israel in spite of this.
- Therefore let us **make** a covenant with our God to put away all these wives and their children, according to the counsel of my lord and of those who tremble at the commandment of our God, and let it be done according to the Law.
- **Arise**, for it is your task, and we are with you; **be strong** and **do it.**”

## Stage 2: Ezra Leads The People To Repent (10:5-8)

- Then Ezra **arose** and **made** the leading priests and Levites and all Israel **take an oath** that they would do as had been said. So they **took** the oath.
- Then Ezra **withdrew** from before the house of God and went to the chamber of Jehohanan the son of Eliashib, where he **spent** the night, neither eating bread nor drinking water, for he was **mourning** over the faithlessness of the exiles.
- And a proclamation **was made** throughout Judah and Jerusalem to all the returned exiles that they should assemble at Jerusalem, and that if anyone did not come within three days, by order of the officials and the elders all his property should be forfeited, and he himself banned from the congregation of the exiles.

## Stage 3: The People Grieve (10:9)

- Then all the men of Judah and Benjamin **assembled** at Jerusalem within the three days. It was the ninth month, on the twentieth day of the month.
- And all the people **sat** in the open square before the house of God, **trembling** because of this matter and because of the heavy rain.

## Stage 4: Ezra Speaks The Word (10:10-11)

- And Ezra the priest **stood up** and **said** to them,
- “You **have broken** faith and **married** foreign women, and so **increased** the guilt of Israel.
- Now then **make** confession to the LORD, the God of your fathers and **do** his will.
- **Separate yourselves** from the peoples of the land and from the foreign wives.”

## Stage 5: The People Prepare to Repent

(10:12-16a)

- Then all the assembly **answered** with a loud voice,
- “It is so; we **must do** as you have said.
- But the people are many, and it is a time of heavy rain; we **cannot stand** in the open.
- Let our officials **stand** for the whole assembly.
- Let all in our cities who have taken foreign wives **come** at appointed times, and with them the elders and judges of every city, until the fierce wrath of our God over this matter is turned away from us.”
- Only Jonathan the son of Asahel and Jahzeiah the son of Tikvah **opposed** this, and Meshullam and Shabbethai the Levite **supported** them.
- Then the returned exiles **did** so.

## Stage 6: Ezra Examines the People

(10:16b-17)

- Ezra the priest **selected** men, heads of fathers' houses, according to their fathers' houses, each of them designated by name.
- On the first day of the tenth month they **sat down** to **examine** the matter; and by the first day of the first month they **had come** to the end of all the men who had married foreign women.

## Stage 7: The People Repent

(10:18-44)

- Now there were found some of the sons of the **priests** who had married foreign women: Maaseiah, Eliezer, Jarib, and Gedaliah, some of the sons of Jeshua the son of Jozadak and his brothers. They pledged themselves to put away their wives, and their guilt offering was a ram of the flock for their guilt. Of the sons of Immer: Hanani and Zebadiah. Of the sons of Harim: Maaseiah, Elijah, Shemaiah, Jehiel, and Uziah. Of the sons of Pashhur: Elioenai, Maaseiah, Ishmael, Nethanel, Jozabad, and Elasa.
- Of the **Levites**: Jozabad, Shimei, Kelaiah (that is, Kelita), Pethahiah, Judah, and Eliezer. Of the singers: Eliashib.
- Of the **gatekeepers**: Shallum, Telem, and Uri.
- And of **Israel**: of the sons of Parosh: Ramiah, Izziah, Malchijah, Mijamin, Eleazar, Hashabiah, and Benaiah. Of the sons of Elam: Mattaniah, Zechariah, Jehiel, Abdi, Jeremoth, and Elijah. Of the sons of Zattu: Elioenai, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Jeremoth, Zabad, and Aziza. Of the sons of Bebai were Jehohanan, Hananiah, Zabbai, and Athlai. Of the sons of Bani were Meshullam, Malluch, Adaiyah, Jashub, Sheal, and Jeremoth. Of the sons of Pahath-moab: Adna, Chelal, Benaiah, Maaseiah, Mattaniah, Bezalel, Binnui, and Manasseh. Of the sons of Harim: Eliezer, Isshijah, Malchijah, Shemaiah, Shimeon, Benjamin, Malluch, and Shemariah. Of the sons of Hashum: Mattenai, Mattattah, Zabad, Eliphelet, Jeremai, Manasseh, and Shimei. Of the sons of Bani: Maadai, Amram, Uel, Benaiah, Bedeiah, Cheluhi, Vaniah, Meremoth, Eliashib, Mattaniah, Mattenai, Jaasu. Of the sons of Binnui: Shimei, Shelemiah, Nathan, Adaiyah, Machnadebai, Shashai, Sharai, Azarel, Shelemiah, Shemariah, Shallum, Amariah, and Joseph. Of the sons of Nebo: Jeiel, Mattithiah, Zabad, Zebina, Jaddai, Joel, and Benaiah. All these had married foreign women, and some of the women had even borne children.

## **Matthew 18: Teaching on Ezra 10**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” (18:1 ESV)

### **Stage 1: Enter the Kingdom as a Child (18:2-4 ESV)**

And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

### **Stage 2: Protect Others From Sin (18:5-7 ESV)**

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. “Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes!

### **Stage 3: Repent of Your Own Sins First (18:8-9 ESV)**

And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

### **Stage 4: Seek the One Who Sins (18:10-14 ESV)**

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

**Stage 5: Confront the One Who Sins to Repent**

(18:15-20 ESV)

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother.

But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses.

If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church.

And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

**Stage 6: Forgive the One Who Repents**

(18:21-35 ESV)

Then Peter came up and said to him, “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.’ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.

But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.

When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.

So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.” (Matthew 18 ESV)