

## Ezra's Prayer about Intermarriage - Ezra 9:1-15

**Topics:** Accountability, Accusation, Confession, Despair, Disobedience, Emotions, Evil, Failure, Faults, Feelings, Grief, Humiliation, Humility, Marriage, Prayer, Punishment, Relationships, Sorrow, Unbelievers, Unfaithfulness, Weaknesses

### Open It

- \* 1. How much influence do you think your friends have on you?
- 2. Why do you think peer pressure is so powerful?
- 3. What would you say are the most important relationships in your life?

### Explore It

- \* 4. Of what sin were the Israelites guilty? (9:1-2)
- 5. What was wrong with the Israelites' not being separate from their neighbors? (9:1-2)
- 6. Who initiated a sinful practice among the Israelites? (9:2)
- 7. How did Ezra react to the news about Israel's sin? (9:3)
- 8. Who gathered around Ezra when he was grieving for Israel's sin? (9:4)
- 9. What did Ezra do at the evening sacrifice? (9:5-6)
- 10. Why was Ezra ashamed? (9:6)
- 11. How did Ezra explain the oppression Israel had experienced? (9:7)
- 12. In what way had the Lord been gracious to Israel? (9:8-9)
- 13. How did Ezra view himself in God's sight? (9:9)
- \* 14. What did Ezra confess to God? (9:10)
- \* 15. Why did the Lord not want the Israelites to intermarry with their neighbors? (9:11-12)
- 16. What blessing did God promise Israel if they obeyed Him? (9:12)
- 17. What did Ezra believe Israel deserved for their sin? (9:14)
- 18. Why did Ezra feel unfit to stand in the Lord's presence? (9:15)

### Get It

- 19. Why do you think Ezra reacted so strongly to the news that the Israelites had intermarried with their neighbors?
- 20. What does Ezra's reaction to Israel's sin reveal about his character?
- 21. Why did God want the Israelites not to intermarry with their neighbors?
- \* 22. In what ways do Christians need to avoid mixing themselves with the world?
- 23. What kind of relationships should Christians have with unbelievers?
- 24. What danger is there in associating too closely with someone who has different beliefs?
- \* 25. What can we learn from Ezra about confession of sin?
- 26. How has God shown His graciousness and forgiveness to you?

### Apply It

- 27. When can you take some time today for confession to the Lord?
- \* 28. What specific steps can you take this week to sharpen your sensitivity to sin in your life?
- 29. How could you thank the Lord for His forgiveness?