

Pastor Roy's Sermon on Nehemiah 9:1-21

(September 2, 2026)

—Below are questions from that lesson to further our understanding—

1. The Israelites spent half a day reading God's Word and confessing their sins together as a unified community -- what does this level of corporate commitment to repentance reveal about what genuine revival actually requires from us individually and collectively?
2. The sermon compares unconfessed sin to garbage wrapped in plastic that eventually forces its way out through its smell -- in what ways have you seen the consequences of hidden sin inevitably surface in your own life or in the lives of those around you?
3. The prayer in Nehemiah 9 rehearses God's faithfulness through history as the foundation for repentance -- why do you think remembering what God has done in the past is so important to the act of genuine confession and turning back to Him?
4. God continued to lead Israel with the pillar of cloud and fire even after they created the golden calf and committed great blasphemies -- what does this tell us about the nature of God's mercy, and how does it challenge or comfort you in your own seasons of spiritual failure?
5. The Israelites separated themselves from foreigners before confessing their sins, reflecting their identity as God's covenant people -- how should our identity in Christ shape the way we approach repentance and our relationship with the surrounding culture today?
6. Abraham is described as a man whose heart God found faithful, and yet his story is filled with moments of doubt and human weakness -- what does it mean to you that God evaluates faithfulness not as perfection but as a posture of trust and obedience over time?
7. The sermon notes that the Israelites refused to be mindful of the wonders God had performed among them even while those wonders were happening -- in what ways are we prone to the same spiritual blindness in our own generation, and what disciplines might guard us against it?
8. Fasting is described as something that draws us closer to God and demonstrates genuine dependence on Him -- do you think modern Christians take fasting seriously enough as a spiritual discipline, and what might we be missing by neglecting it?
9. God sustained the Israelites in the wilderness for forty years, providing food, water, and clothing that did not wear out even during a period largely defined by their disobedience -- how does this reality reshape the way you think about God's provision in difficult or spiritually dry seasons of your own life?
10. The sermon draws a parallel between the parrot exposing the magician's tricks and God's Word exposing hidden sin -- what is it about the Word of God that makes it uniquely capable of bringing what is concealed into the light, and how should that shape the way we approach Scripture personally?