

Keepers of the Gospel
Reflections on Nehemiah
Nehemiah 9 & 10

We're nearing the end of our study of Nehemiah since much of what follows consists of lists. But the final two sections we are looking at are rich in material and filled with powerful spiritual insights. Chapter 9 is relatively long, but take the time to read it. You will probably want to skim over chapter 10, but don't ignore it!

Pastor Eric

Understanding the Passage

Why do you think the people moved from celebration in Nehemiah 8 to confession and repentance in chapter 9? What does that teach us about the role of God's word in our lives?

Why do you think recounting Israel's history was such an important part of the prayer in Nehemiah 9? What stands out to you most about the repeated cycle in Israel's history of obedience, followed by rebellion, then being called out, which led to repentance, and finally, obedience again?

Celebrating God's Faithfulness

The prayer repeatedly highlights God's character as "forgiving, gracious and compassionate, slow to anger and abounding in love" (verse 17). Which part of that description means the most to you right now, and why?

"The past is a call to celebrate God's faithfulness." How does remembering God's faithfulness strengthen your faith in present challenges? Are there moments in your past where you now see God's grace at work even though you didn't recognize it at the time? What is an example of that?

Examining Patterns

Are there patterns of behavior in your family tree that you can detect, good or bad? If the past can reveal recurring patterns of behavior, what patterns—good or bad—have you noticed *in your own life* over time?

TF Torrance wrote that God's word brings to the surface our "latent enmity against God." How have Scripture and the Holy Spirit exposed attitudes, habits, or sins you might otherwise have overlooked?

Confession and Repentance

What practices help you honestly examine your heart before God? What is the difference between feeling guilty about sin and genuinely confessing and repenting of it?

Obedience and Transformation

James says that hearing God's Word without obeying it is like looking in a mirror and immediately forgetting what you saw (James 1). Where is God currently calling you to move from knowledge to obedience?

If the trajectory of confession is repentance and obedience, what is one specific step of obedience you sense God inviting you to take this week?