

Ezra: Faith and Action Preacher

Introduction

Social mores - cultural norms that determine what is and what is not morally acceptable. But upon close examination, we must be attentive to the source of these communal "guidelines". Is culture alone guiding your behavior or is Scripture your ultimate, ethical guide ?

Today's Lesson Objectives

- **Contrast** the people's need for repentance with their joyful response to God's word
- **Believe** that God's truth is eternal
- **Grow** in determination to serve God in our community and beyond

Scripture

Ezra 10:1-12 (KJV)

Devotional Reading:

Ezekiel 18:25-32 (KJV)



About Today's Lesson...

Have you ever found yourself turning away from long-standing values you previously held ? For example, do you still hold the door for a person behind you when entering a building ? Do you keep promises ? Do you still say "thank you" after someone has provided you a service ? Holding on to ethical values in today's world can be challenging - especially when others reciprocate in unethical ways. It is easy to lose our sense of direction in life and turn away from godly values we used to adhere to.

In today's lesson, the priest and scribe Ezra returns to Jerusalem with a second group of exiles only to discover that the people had engaged in ungodly marriages. As a man of God, a very distraught Ezra prayed, confessed, and led the people in repentance. Ezra's faith, followed by his actions, motivated the people to change their ways and to joyously worship the Lord.

Having ethical values matter. And acting in accordance with ethical values is paramount if our goal is to do God's will. But let God's holy scriptures be the map that leads you in the right direction.

Join Mt. Zion's Virtual Sunday School via Zoom:

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Meeting ID: 997 3146 4449

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