



Nehemiah

A TIME TO BUILD

Growth Groups

Nehemiah 9:1-37

3rd March 2024

Read Nehemiah 9:1-37

It is worth reading the whole passage again, not least to remind ourselves of the contrast between God's faithfulness to his people and their unfaithfulness to Him.

What struck, challenged or encouraged you from God's word on Sunday?

1. Remind yourselves as you look through the passage, how does the prayer of confession set out God's goodness and faithfulness? Why might it be good to remind ourselves of this (a) generally, and (b) as a prelude to our own confession? (5 mins)
2. In turn, review how the the unfaithfulness of the OT people is also set out. Why then did the people in Nehemiah 9 say "*In all that has happened to us, you have remained righteous; you have acted faithfully, while we acted wickedly*" (v33)? (5mins)
3. Set out below is the confession we often use. Look at it, and discuss why Thomas Cranmer put it like this, particularly the bits in bold (10 mins):

*Almighty and most merciful Father, we have wandered and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. **We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.** We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things that we ought to have done; and we have done those things that we ought not to have done; **and there is no health in us.***

***But you, O Lord, have mercy upon us sinners.** Spare those who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, **according to your promises declared to mankind in Christ Jesus our Lord.** And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, **that we may live a disciplined, righteous and godly life, to the glory of your holy name.** Amen.*

4. The people of God recognised their own wretchedness. This is similar to Paul in Romans 7:24. Why is the next verse such good news, therefore? (5-10 mins)
5. Someone says to you, 'I don't like the way you Christians mention sin so much!'. What would you say in reply? (5-10 mins)