

January 2, 2022 Ezra 10:1-44
Be Courageous And Act!

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Praying, Confessing, Weeping, and Mourning over sin. Observe this pattern as you deal with your personal sin.

As Ezra confessed, wept, and mourned over sin he became a catalyst of repentance as others gathered around him. With your life, be sure to lead people to Him, not away. People are watching you, some to see you fail, some to see if your faith is genuine. Live for God.

The marriages described in **chapter 10** were strictly forbidden by the Lord God of Israel. The end result was that the marriages be terminated. They were terminated because they were in reality a non-marriage just as a marital union of incest or homosexuality would be. This account is descriptive, not prescriptive, and cannot be taken as authorization for divorcing an unbelieving spouse!

God is the author/designer of marriage, see **Genesis 2:24**.

God sees divorce as a "treacherous act", see **Malachi 2:13-16**.

There is a direct correlation between the way a man treats his wife and the effectiveness of his prayers to God, see **I Peter 3:7**.

Divorce is allowed by God but only because of the hardness of one's heart, see **Matthew 19:8**.

Contemplate the comparison of Christ and His church with the relationship between a husband and wife in **Ephesians 5:22-33**.

Application:

The people had sinned terribly against God and had disobeyed His Word. There was a time of bitter weeping and acknowledgment of that sin. After the people owned up to their sin, Shecaniah son of Jehiel, saw this response of repentance and proclaimed that there was **hope** for Israel. They chose to **act** by making a covenant before God and denounce the illegitimate marriages. In **verse 4** the people were told to get up, take responsibility for the wrong and to take action to make it right.

If you have an un-dealt with sin in your life, in sincere repentance and with brokenness over the sin, confess it and forsake it. There is hope for you just as there was hope for Israel.

It is better to please God than men/self. (**Acts 5:29**) As the new year, 2022, begins, start off right with clean hands and a pure heart! (See **Psalms 24:1-10**).