



Week 7: Plead Sincerely

Nehemiah 9:1-8 and 9:32-35 (NIV)

A. People's Sincere Repentance

"The Israelites gathered together, fasting and wearing sackcloth, and putting dust on their heads."

Nehemiah 9:1b (NIV)

1. Gathered Together
2. Fasted
3. Sackcloth and Dust
4. Disobedience

"Our kings, our leaders, our priests, and our ancestors did not follow Your law." Nehemiah 9:34a (NIV)

B. People's Sincere Adoration

1. One True God
"You alone are the Lord..." v. 6a

2. Creator God

"You made the heavens, even the highest heavens, and all their starry host, the earth and all that is on it..." v. 6b

3. Object of all praise

"You give life to everything, and the multitudes of heaven worship You." v. 6c

4. Great Protector

"You divided the sea before them, so that they passed through it on dry ground, but You hurled their pursuers into the depths, like a stone into mighty waters." v. 7

C. God's Sincere Faithfulness

1. Abraham vv.7-8
2. The Exodus vv. 9-11
3. The Wilderness vv. 12, 19-21
 - a. Pillar of cloud by day
 - b. Pillar of fire by night
4. The Ten Commandments vv. 13-14
5. Canaan vv. 22-25
6. The Prophets vv. 26-27
7. Jesus

"Jesus said to them, 'If God were your Father, you would love Me, for I have come here from God. I have not come on My own; God sent Me.'" John 8:42 (NIV)

D. How about you?

"But as soon as they were at rest, they again did what was evil in Your sight." Nehemiah 9:28a (NIV)

We are in danger of growing fat in a land of freedom.

1. A unifying plea

"Heavenly Father, we come before You today to ask Your forgiveness and to seek Your direction and guidance. We know Your Word says, 'Woe to those who call evil good,' but that is exactly what we have done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and reversed our values. We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery. We have killed our unborn and called it choice. We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable. We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building self-esteem. We have abused power and called it politics. We have coveted our neighbor's possessions and called it ambition. We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression. We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment." Rev. Joe Wright

2. A personal plea

"God, You are right and I am wrong. I have to agree with You. Please cleanse me and make me whole. Take away from my heart anything that does not bow before You as Lord; whatever in me does not have Your name on it; all that is resistant to the Holy Spirit; everything impure and unworthy of You; attitudes and opinions and convictions that do not originate with You; desires, motives, plans, and ambitions in conflict with Your will for my life; anything that runs and hides when You enter; that laughs when I believe, that squirms when I pray, that fears when I trust; whatever in me that does not give You joy, make You proud, or serve Your purpose; all of this and everything else that holds me back, weighs me down, and cheapens the product. Search me, Oh, God, and know my heart today; cleanse me from every sin and set me free. And, once again, let your face shine upon me. Purge me immediately! Cleanse me completely! Sanctify me wholly! Glorify Yourself in me eternally! Amen! Amen!"
Pastor Steve Wagers

*To begin a relationship with Jesus...
Text: I Choose Jesus to 88202*

Next Sunday: Pledge Wholeheartedly (*Nehemiah 9:38-13*)

