

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

Our Mission: Reaching Out to Leaders Who Can Change the World.

27 August – 31 August 2007

NEHEMIAH: MAN OF PRAYER & ACTION! ***#6 VALUE OF CONFESSION-PART 1***

INTRODUCTION

- To what extent do you agree with the statement, "Confession is good for the soul."

TRAINING OBJECTIVE To discuss the value of confession in the life of a believer.

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: Sackcloth was a loose, coarsely woven material like burlap that was worn as a sign of mourning. Ashes were another expression of grief. Professional mourners were sometimes hired and wore this garb.

Read Nehemiah 9:1-6

- What is the occasion for this time of corporate confession?
- How do they prepare for this?
- Why do they separate themselves from all foreigners?
- What is the value of corporate confession?

Read Nehemiah 9:7-21

Note: In this prayer, God's grace and power are reviewed throughout recorded history.

- "You" is used 38 times in these verses (referring to God). Why is this significant?
- Why did they spend so much time recounting the details of their past sins?
- Why was it important to include both their sins as well as God's grace/power in the prayer?
- Why go through the time/effort of confessing our sins if God already knows about them?
- What helps you to take sin seriously and not trivialize it?

APPLICATION

- What is one action step you can take this week to help you become more consistent and sincere with your confession time with God?

When we do something wrong, we tend to trivialize it. We say things like, "I'm only human." "What do you expect...perfection?" Or we excuse it as something that is not important by saying, "It is just a small thing." The truth is, that no matter how small a sin may seem to us, it offends our holy God. It is an insult from His creation. Not only that, every sin mars us. Every sin deforms us, messing us up, taking us further away from the joy of our original design. This is why we must demonstrate the courage to hear God's Word. For when we hear it, listen to it and understand it, we begin getting the perspective we need in order to rightly confess our sin.

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