

DISCIPLESHIP GROUPS

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

3 – 7 September 2007

NEHEMIAH: MAN OF PRAYER & ACTION! ***#7 VALUE OF CONFESSION-PART 2***

INTRODUCTION

- How should we react when celebrities make public statements/confessions of remorse regarding their criminal behavior?

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

OBSERVATION/INTERPRETATION

Note: Nehemiah 9:1-21 described how the Israelites held another great assembly and “stood where they were and read from the Book of the Law of the LORD their God for a quarter of the day, and spent another quarter in confession and in worshipping the LORD their God”. Verses 22-38 continue the Levites’ prayer of corporate confession begun in verse 5 on behalf of the Israelites.

Read Nehemiah 9:22-38

- What aspects of man’s sinful nature are evident in these verses? Of God’s nature?
- What (and who) did the Israelites say was the source of their problems?
- What are they asking God to do?
- What are they saying they will do?
- What’s the relationship between the three parts of their worship: 1) Instruction from the Word, 2) Confession, and 3) Praise? Why is this a good model? (1 John 1:9)
- Why does abundance and affluence often lead to indifference toward God and/or sin? (vv 25, 28; Deuteronomy 8:10-14) How can we prevent that from happening to us today?
- How can this lesson encourage us if we find ourselves taking God for granted?
- Why did the Israelites need a written agreement following their verbal confessions? (v 38)
- How can we benefit by writing down our confessions to God?
- When is public confession appropriate? Not appropriate?

APPLICATION

- What is one area of your spiritual life that could use some ‘spring cleaning’? Confess this to God and ask for His strength to help you follow through.

As we saw at the beginning, they (the Israelites) acknowledge that they are slaves in their own land and because of their own sins. This is where we find ourselves in America today. Our cities are torn with violence, strife, and drug wars of such intensity that people hardly dare go outside their homes. We are slaves in our own land. The only recovery is to do as these people did -- confess our wrongdoing to God and praise him for his compassionate mercy.

Ray C. Steadman, Sermoncentral.com