

Rebuilding Our Defense
Nehemiah 9
Repentance and Mercy

“...the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth on their heads. And the Israelites separated themselves from all foreigners and stood and confessed their sins and the iniquities of their fathers.”

Nehemiah 9:1-2

Life Application: Confession and repentance are necessary for us to receive God’s mercy.

Elements of repentance that lead to mercy:

1. Fasting (9:1)
2. Sackcloth and earth (ashes)- mourning (9:1)
3. Separation from non-Jews- i.e. separation from the world (9:2)
4. Confession of their sins (9:2)
5. Confession of previous generations of sin (9:2)
6. Reading of the Word of God (9:3)
7. Worship and crying out to God (9:3-4)
8. An entire day to connect with God (9:3)

9. Exalting who God is (9:5-6)
10. Remembering who God is (9:7-15)
11. Remembering our rebellion (9:16-21)
12. Remembering God’s great mercy (9:18-25)
13. Remembering further rebellion (9:26-30)
14. Remembering again God’s great mercy (9:28:31)

Point: God always keeps His covenantal love with His children.

“Nevertheless, in your great mercies you did not make an end of them or forsake them, for you are a gracious and merciful God.”

Nehemiah 9:31

Personal Application...

The purpose of confession and repentance is to turn hearts back to the Lord and to His Word and to receive mercy from Him.

Sermon by Pastor Dave Williams on Sunday, August 9th, 2015
Next week: Nehemiah 10 Restoring Worship