

Recap of 6/2/19 (Nehemiah 9:32-10:1):

1. Once again the Israelites find themselves under foreign domination. They are experiencing the consequences of their sin. Once again they cry out to God for rescue.

-“Throughout Israel’s history she experienced hardship because of her disobedience.” “Even while the Israelite’s were enjoying God’s blessings in the land, they were still sinful.” (Getz)

2. The Levites prayer acknowledges that God has been just in His dealings with Israel. The question arises: how can God forgive sin and still be just? Richards points out: “Both testaments affirm God’s justice--... Both also see two aspects of justice. God is just in punishing the wicked...But God is also just in exercising compassion. It is the right thing for God to punish, and it is also the right thing for Him to forgive. The New Testament harmonizes these two aspects of justice in the Cross. God did not just overlook His moral obligation and dismiss sin as if it was nothing. In Christ, God took the full punishment sin deserves upon Himself. With sin paid for, God is perfectly free to offer human beings forgiveness and perfectly just to forgive those who respond to the Gospel’s good news.”

-Justice and forgiveness meet at the Cross. God had to do something about sin after it invaded the world in the Garden of Eden through our disobedience in Adam and Eve (Romans 5:12). He did by paying the penalty of our sin,, taking our punishment upon Himself (2 Corinthians 5:21). It’s not that I get away with sin; it’s that someone paid the price of my failure, so now God is free to forgive when we come to Him by faith in Jesus’ finished work of redemption on Calvary.

3. Confronted with the Word of God (chapter 8), they confessed their sin (chapter 9) and recommitted themselves to obey the Mosaic Covenant (chapter 10). The religious and civil leaders (Nehemiah, the Priests, the Levites, and the Leaders (Heads of families) put the commitment in writing, signing it and affixing their seals to it.

4. The Word of God has the power to convict us of sin, when we go astray, and to bring us to the place where we are ready to recommit ourselves once again to His course for our lives.