

Arise & Build, #4 (Ezra 9–10)
GET BACK ON TRACK!

September 30–October 1, 2023 // Sermon Study Guide // Pastor Mark Henry D.D.

Text: Ezra 9–10

Truth Points: What truth was covered this weekend in the message?

1. Read Ezra 9 and 10. How did Israel get off the track God had laid out for them? Consider Exodus 34:11–16.
2. How are different people or groups of people responding in these two chapters? Would you and I find similar groups and responses today?
3. Why do the wicked feel no shame? Consider Zephaniah 3:5 and Philippians 3:18–19.
4. Five months have passed since Ezra has returned. Why is this problem coming up now? Did he not know about it? What stands out about Ezra's initial response?
5. Why does Ezra take action? What stands out to you in 10:1–4?
6. Was it important for the people to take an oath with Ezra? Why or why not?
7. Ezra built a plan to get the nation back on track. What was the plan? How does it reflect the calling of leadership? How does it honor God?

Reflection Points: How does God want me to think, feel, act, and speak because of this truth?

1. Am I on track? The track God has laid out for me – as a man or woman, as a married or single person, etc? How would I know?
2. When was the last time I felt shame? Was it godly shame? Is there anything right now I need to feel shame for in my life? How do I cultivate a more tender conscience toward God to feel godly shame?
3. What steps do I need to take to deal with godly shame?
4. Do I need to assume responsibility and lead as Ezra, or do I need to call a godly man to lead? How will this change in the phases of my life?

Action Points: What am I going to do **this week** because of this truth?

1. **Read Nehemiah 1** this week in preparation for next weekend.
2. **Reflect** on Ezra 10:1–5 every day this week.
3. **Ask** on three questions every day this week:
 - Do I feel shame when I sin or am I too proud?
 - Who do I follow: the crowd or godly men like Ezra?
 - What plan do I need to build for my life to live godly and help others live godly?
4. **Share** with another follower of Jesus what you are learning about God, the Bible, Jesus, etc. Help them follow Jesus better in 2023.