

THE FAITH-IN-ACTION PREACHER

Lesson 6, Ezra 10:1-12, KJV

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY?

Ezra's bold action requires us to think carefully about why he did what he did. How would you answer someone who said the following?

1. "The remedy for this sin was too harsh!" _____

2. "Ezra acted beyond his level of authority!" _____

3. "The people were coerced into obeying the will of a dictator!" _____

Compare and contrast your answers with another class member.

STINKIN' THINKIN'

Each of the following statements reflects a common attitude among some toward the problem of sin. How do the examples from today's passage refute the thinking behind each one? Jot your reactions in the space provided.

1. "What I did may be wrong, but I'm certainly not the first person to have done it! Cut me some slack!"

2. "Telling the truth about my sin would cause too much hardship and pain for others I love. I lie to protect them."

3. "Habits are habits, and sometimes they're impossible to break. Give me some time while I work on this."

4. "I've prayed about this, and I know God understands."

5. "Sin, sin, sin . . . all you Christians do is fret about sin! Why can't you just live and let live?"

6. "What I do in the privacy of my home is my business, and mine alone. You take care of your own relationship with God and let me worry about myself."

Put a star beside any sentence you may have spoken in the past or any sentence that reflects your thinking today. How does today's study help you change your thinking?