



## None Can Stand Before You

By Taylor Braswell on April 2, 2024

### TODAY'S READING: Ezra 9

Ezra is a Jewish scribe seeking to point God's people back to God. Because Ezra loves God and wants to see Him glorified, he is broken over the sinfulness all around him. The specific sin Ezra is mourning in this text is being unequally yoked. Someone who is racist can look at a passage like this and say, "See, it's in the Bible, we aren't supposed to marry people of other ethnicities." Verse 2 says, *"the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands. And in this faithlessness, the hand of the officials and chief men has been foremost."* Ezra goes on to say in verse 14, *"Shall we break your commandments again and intermarry with the peoples who practice these abominations?"* You see, Church, Ezra is not concerned with race but with the heart. When God's people marry people who are faithless and who practice abominations, it leads them astray.

2 Corinthians 6:14 says, *"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?"* A yoke is something that attaches two oxen so that they are plowing in the same direction. As a Christ follower, we should be running towards Christ. If we are married to someone who is not a Christ-follower, they are not only not helping us run, but they are pulling us the opposite way. Even if you are not married, this still applies to you. Who you spend your time with and who you have relationships with affect whether you are running towards Christ or away from Him.

In verses 6-9, Ezra acknowledges the people's sinfulness before God. Ezra knows the people don't deserve God, and even though they are slaves, Ezra admits that God has not forsaken them. Ezra finishes the chapter by reiterating just how undeserving the people are of God's favor. Ezra knows the people should be wiped out because they are guilty. You and I are the same as these people, Church! We were slaves to our own passions and desires before God regenerated us through His Spirit and saved us. None of us deserves God, and yet in His mercy he does not destroy us. God continues to show us grace each day, but none of us can stand before God because we are guilty. Praise be to God who sent Christ to take our guilt upon himself.

**PRAYER:** God, thank you for sparing me even though you would be justified to destroy me because of my sin. Put other Christians in my life and help me seek out Christian relationships so that others are pushing me towards you. Thank you for giving me Christ's righteous record and forgiving me of my sin.

### TOMORROW'S READING: Psalm 22

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