

Repentance and Self-Righteousness

Wyatt Martin // March 20, 2022

Daniel 9

Big Idea: Exiles choose repentance instead of self-righteousness.

Daniel chooses honest repentance.

Daniel chooses humble repentance.

Daniel chooses communal repentance.

The power of sin is bigger than just the isolated choices of individuals.

Luke 18:13-14

2 Corinthians 5:21

For more on the idea of “Communal Repentance”, check out the upcoming Native Exiles episode on Corporate Responsibility. Subscribe at NativeExiles.com.

Sermon questions

Meet Daniel—a man who stayed radically faithful to God and thrived in his faith while living right in the middle of one of the most godless kingdoms of all time. He has a lot to teach us about what it looks like to be an exile—a citizen of God’s kingdom who lives in the tension of being in the world but not of it. We are continuing our series in Daniel, and our passage this Sunday is **Daniel 9**. The Big Idea is, *Exiles choose repentance instead of self-righteousness*.

Use these questions to discuss the message from Sunday, focusing on how you can **grow** as an everyday follower of Jesus and how you can **go** accomplish what Jesus calls you to do.

1. Without using a dictionary, how would you describe “self-righteousness” and “repentance” in your own words?
2. In the message this week, Wyatt said, “The power of sin is bigger than just the isolated choices of individuals.” Do you agree or disagree, and why? Can you find other examples in scripture that support this broader concept of sin?

3. Daniel's prayer is remarkable for the absolute absence of self-righteousness, despite Daniel's long history of faithfulness. In what context are you most tempted to adopt a self-righteous attitude?

4. In this prayer, Daniel speaks with radical honesty and candor (see **vs. 5** and **9-10**). Is being honest about your sin and shortcomings before God an area where Jesus is calling you to **grow**? If so, how can you take steps in that direction right now?

5. How do you think self-righteousness affects your effectiveness as you **go** towards people with the gospel?