

[illegible]

Seabreeze CCL#105966
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Jeremiah 5:23, 17:9, 24:7, Malachi 4:5-6

Growth Group Homework

Warm Up

1. When was a time that you misunderstood a problem in family-life, work, a home improvement project, etc., and came up with a solution that didn't address the issue?

Talk it Over

2. What in the message did you find interesting, challenging or helpful?

3. In Daniel chapter 9, we find a prayer describing the sin of the people. Read through the passage below and identify some of the major elements of the prayer.

Daniel 9:4-19 O Master, great and august God. You never waver in your covenant commitment, never give up on those who love you and do what you say. Yet we have sinned in every way imaginable. We've done evil things, rebelled, dodged and taken detours around your clearly marked paths. We've turned a deaf ear to your servants the prophets, who preached your Word to our kings and leaders, our parents, and all the people in the land...

Compassion is our only hope, the compassion of you, the Master, our God, since in our rebellion we've forfeited our rights. We paid no attention to you when you told us how to live, the clear teaching that came through your servants the prophets. All of us in Israel ignored what you said. We defied your instructions and did what we pleased. We kept at our sinning, never giving you a second thought, oblivious to your clear warning, and so you had no choice but to let the disaster loose on us in full force. You, our God, had a perfect right to do this since we persistently and defiantly ignored you.

So listen, God, to this determined prayer of your servant. Have mercy on your ruined Sanctuary. Act out of who you are, not out of what we are. This prayer is our last and only hope: "Master, listen to us! Master, forgive us! Master, look at us and do something! Master, don't put us off!" (excerpt from the Message)

- What synonyms or descriptions does Daniel use to describe sin in his prayer?

- What are some of the differences between Daniel's understanding of human sin and how we often think about our sin?

4. Bevan identified several circumstantial solutions people hope will solve our problems. Which of these do you see at work today? Explain.

- What are the risks of putting our hope in these solutions and not addressing the problems?

- What could it look like to work for some of these things while holding onto the understanding that our problem is sin and Christ is the only solution for that?

Take it Home

5. What's something from this discussion you can apply this week?