

**WILL YOU FAITHFULLY  
FOLLOW ME?**

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**ONE HOPE** **STELLENBOSCH**

## EZRA 9:1-3

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### Ezra Prays About Intermarriage

**<sup>1</sup>After these things had been done, the officials approached me and said, "The people of Israel and the priests and the Levites have not separated themselves from the peoples of the lands with their abominations, from the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, the Jebusites, the Ammonites, the Moabites, the Egyptians, and the Amorites. <sup>2</sup>For they have taken some of their daughters to be wives for themselves and for their sons, so that the holy race has mixed itself with the peoples of the lands.**

## **EZRA 9:1-3**

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**And in this faithlessness the hand of the officials and chief men has been foremost." <sup>3</sup>As soon as I heard this, I tore my garment and my cloak and pulled hair from my head and beard and sat appalled.**

## EZRA 9:2 (NLT)

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... So the **holy race** has become **polluted** by these mixed marriages. Worse yet, the leaders and officials have led the way in this outrage.”

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- 4) Have grace for context. What are they facing? What don't they know that we do today (ie. the teachings of Christ!)?
- 5) When you can't trace the hand of God, you can always trust His heart. (Who does the whole Bible reveal Him to be?)

## **EZRA 6:21 (NLT)**

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**The Passover meal was eaten by the people of Israel who had returned from exile and by the others in the land who had turned from their corrupt practices to worship the Lord, the God of Israel.**

## EXODUS 34:12-16 (NLT)

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<sup>12</sup>“Be very careful never to make a treaty with the people who live in the land where you are going. **If you do, you will follow their evil ways and be trapped.** <sup>13</sup>Instead, you must break down their pagan altars, smash their sacred pillars, and cut down their Asherah poles. <sup>14</sup>**You must worship no other gods,** for the Lord, whose very name is Jealous, is a God who is jealous about his relationship with you.

## EXODUS 34:12-16 (NLT)

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<sup>15</sup>“You must not make a treaty of any kind with the people living in the land. They lust after their gods, offering sacrifices to them. **They will invite you to join them in their sacrificial meals, and you will go with them.** <sup>16</sup>Then you will accept their daughters, who sacrifice to other gods, as wives for your sons. **And they will seduce your sons to commit adultery against me by worshiping other gods.**

## **EZRA 9:8a (NLT)**

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**But now we have been given a brief moment of grace, for the Lord our God has allowed a few of us to survive as a remnant.**

## **EZRA 9:14 (NLT)**

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**But even so, we are again breaking your commands and intermarrying with people who do these detestable things. Won't your anger be enough to destroy us, so that even this little remnant no longer survives?**