

Rebuilding the Church: Being Humbled by God  
*Nehemiah 9, Luke 5:1-8*

1. Respond to the statement: "If Christians do not have a robust theology, they will have an anemic doxology (worship) and a shallow orthopraxy (living)."
2. What is the difference between an "attribute" and an "action?" How does one shape the other, and vice versa?
3. Of the attributes listed in *Nehemiah 9*, which ones are most meaningful to you – and why?
4. Of the actions listed in this chapter, which ones are most meaningful to you – and why?
5. God's Holy Spirit is holy (no surprise there) and illuminates those realities in our lives and relationships that are unholy. Review vs. 33: what is the significance of the confession, *we have acted wickedly*? Why is this a much stronger admission than: "we have erred" or "we have forgotten" or "we made a mistake?" What is the difference between: "I forgot to leave a tip" compared to "I robbed a bank"? Discuss the statement: "The gravity of the offense is in direction proportion to the position of the one offended." How deep is your repentance?
6. In *Luke 5:1-8*, what aspect of Christ's nature revealed? How does Peter respond, and why?
7. Can you both create and explain the "Cross Chart"? Would this be a helpful tool in sharing the gospel with a non-Christian and with a Christian? In what two ways do we "shrink the cross?" [Note: in using this phrase we are not suggesting that the finished work of Christ can in any way be changed or diminished; we are saying that our experience of appreciating and receiving God's grace and forgiveness can be diminished]. Extra credit: read *Luke 7:36-50*.
8. The two "wedges" that we use to diminish God's holiness and inflate our righteousness are real threats to the health, vitality, joy, and freedom of the gospel in the heart of the Christian and the church. How have you seen this evidenced in your own life or the life of CPC?
9. Review last week's statement: "The Law (moral) of God is our friend, for it leads us to the cross in repentance and from the cross in obedience." In *Nehemiah 9*, how has Israel of old treated God's Law (and God Himself)? What were the consequences of this rebellion? What attribute of God is mentioned more than any other in this chapter? Why is this significant?
10. As you contemplate the results of the presidential election this week (steward your citizenship and VOTE), what attributes and actions of God bring joy and comfort to your heart regardless of the outcome?
11. Why is gospel humility the means by which God reveals to us the glory of His grace (see *James 4:6* and *I Peter 5:5*). Are you daily believing and celebrating "the bloody cross, the empty tomb, and the occupied throne?" How is this changing you - and us as a church?