

# DANIEL 9

1. Daniel sought to use the prophetic writings to understand his times. Are you able to do that? What are some things that get in the way of you practicing this?
2. Daniel sought Yahweh “for mercy.” Why are we able to do that? Why will He listen to our plea? What are some things right now in your life that you need His mercy on?
3. What are some things about confession that you learned or re-learned?
4. What are some things in your history, your ancestor’s history, or the world’s history that you have been led to converse with God about? What have you “declared” (perhaps even publically), about these sins? Why do you think this is hard for us?
5. Why do you think it is good to use “we” language, to own the sins history records? Why do you think that Scripture shows us examples like Daniel, of people “owning” the sins of others?

## **MORE ON THIS CURIOUS SUBJECT:**

As Kyle stated on Sunday, Daniel was just one example of a person in Scripture who owned the sins of others and pleaded to God for mercy toward them. If the sins of others only make us angry, we have not arrived where God wants us.

Sorrow and intercession is a mark of one who is a servant leader among sinful people. Look at the example of Moses in the aftermath of Israel worshiping the golden calf (Exodus 32:30-34). He shows us how far we have to go in learning to care for the lost.

Jeremiah describes the ache in his heart for Israel's sin and the resultant pain (Jeremiah 8:18-9:1). He describes the culture's realities in a way that we can see our own culture in his words. Read all of chapter nine to get a good sense for what God sees of our own world, and what our perspective should be.

This characteristic of godly people being willing to bear the sins of others is seen in Paul in the New Testament. Check out his words in Romans 9:1-5. He showed the degree to which he had become like Christ. He could easily have hated Israel given how they had treated him.

Cultivate the habit of having sorrow for the sins of our beloved America! It will lead to greater power in bringing about change.