



## Sermon Notes: How to Repent Like You Mean It

1. Name your specific sin.
2. Acknowledge the treacherous nature of your sin.
3. Acknowledge the weight of your guilt and shame.
4. Acknowledge that you deserve God's wrath.
5. Demonstrate godly sorrow and contrition.
6. Rehearse the grace, love, and mercy of God.
7. Take drastic measures to separate yourself from both temptation and ongoing sin.
8. Make amends as quickly and comprehensively as possible.

How can you possibly live and repent this way? You must see:

- 1) Jesus' intercession for you.
- 2) Jesus' identification with you.



## Gospel Applications: How to Repent Like You Mean It

### Discuss.

1. What did you know about Ezra (the person) prior to this message?
2. What stands out to you about Ezra's reaction to conflict (both external/personal and internal/spiritual)?
3. In your own words, describe what happened in the 57 years between Ezra 6:22 and Ezra 7:1? What lessons do you draw from your observations?
4. How would you feel if you were in Ezra's position: You make a long journey to be with your people (whom you've never met) only to find that they're living in serious sin?
5. What are some key ways Ezra's leadership and influence are different than the kinds of leadership and influence our culture values today? To what do you attribute these marked differences?
6. How do you tend to react to others' sin when it negatively impacts you? What would it sound like for you to pray like Ezra?
7. What are some ways Ezra points us to (and prepares us for) the fuller ministry of Jesus Christ?
8. What one thing will you do with what you've learned this week?

### Pray.

1. Acknowledge and confess areas of your life that are not set apart and wholly devoted to the Lord. Repent of your failure to reflect and embody a Christlike distinctiveness in these areas.
2. Praise the Lord for his steadfast love and enumerate ways you see this evidenced in your life (e.g. forgiveness, daily provision, etc.).