Ezra 9:3-4, & 10:6 When I heard this, I tore my tunic and cloak, pulled hair from my head and beard and sat down appalled. [4] Then everyone who trembled at the words of the God of Israel gathered around me because of this unfaithfulness of the exiles. And I sat there appalled until the evening sacrifice. ...10:6 Then Ezra withdrew from before the house of God and went to the room of Jehohanan son of Eliashib. While he was there, he ate no food and drank no water, because he continued to mourn over the unfaithfulness of the exiles. (NIV)

Ezra found out the people of Israel were getting married to people who did NOT love and serve the God of Israel. In the past this had caused the Israelites to turn away from God and to serve and follow the pagan gods of the Canaanites. His response was immediate. He went into MOURNING he expressed his grief by tearing his clothing and pulling hair out of his head and beard. Signs of deep anguish. He sat "appalled" that is Stunned and Devastated until evening. Then he continued to fast as he mourned over this sin. When is the last time that I mourned deeply over my own sin much less the sins of others? Ezra shows us that we are to care about the things which God cares about. He "trembled at the words of the God of Israel". Do I tremble at God's Word? If I am to be obedient to God's Word then I should be stunned and devastated when I sin or when others sin.

**PRAYER:** Lord, may I mourn over my sin and turn from it. Then may I learn to mourn over the sins of others. Please Lord help me to understand the things which break your heart and help me to be broken by them as well.

Pastor Mark Kieft