

Judicial Decisions
Ezra 10:7-17
August 27, 2017

I. Review

- A. The number of people who had married pagan wives and the conditions in Jerusalem made it impossible for the people of Ezra's time to handle the problem in a congregational way.
- B. The people decided to allow a system of graded courts to investigate and remedy the problem
- C. The people understood that the sins of some of the people involved all the rest of them – that they were all connected in one covenant community
- D. The people were determined to separate themselves from the sin that surrounded them

II. Go Further – Read I Peter 5:1-7

- A. How does Peter describe himself in verse 1? What does he have in common with his readers, and what sets him apart from them?
- B. What does Peter want the elders to do in verse 2? What are the reasons they should do these things?
- C. Peter gives a negative and a positive example of Christian leadership in verse 3. How should Christians lead, and how should they not lead?
- D. What does Peter promise the elders in verse 4?
- E. What does Peter counsel young men to do in verse 5?
- F. What attitude does Peter encourage all of us to have in verses 5 and 6?
- G. For what two reasons does Peter say we should humble ourselves before God in verses 6 and 7?

III. Apply

- A. What sorts of problems are best handled by a whole congregation? Which might best be entrusted to a few leaders to handle?
- B. About what sorts of spiritual questions or problems might we be willing to seek the counsel of elders or deacons?
- C. How does seeking the counsel and oversight of elders express our humility?
- D. In I Peter 5:7, Peter says we should all humble ourselves toward one another. How might this apply to elders as well as younger church members?