

# Where's Your Chair?

Nehemiah 9 32-37



I have gone astray like a sheep that is lost;  
O seek your servant, for I do not forget your commandments.  
Psalm 119:176

## **Praising:**

Jesu, what didst thou find in me,  
that thou has dealt so lovingly?  
How great the joy that thou hast  
brought,  
so far exceeding hope or thought.  
Jesu, my Lord, I thee adore,  
O make me love thee more and  
more!

## **Reading:**

Nehemiah 9:32-37  
Ezra concedes Israel's guilt

Having traced back the history of  
God's dealings with his people  
Israel, Ezra arrives at the stark  
conclusion that where God has  
been faithful, Israel has been  
faithless. Ezra praises God for his  
constancy and acknowledges that  
what Israel has suffered in exile is  
no more than they deserved.  
From the highest in the land to  
the lowest, Israel has fallen short,

wilfully ignoring God and his  
commandments. Ezra describes  
Israel as being slaves in the land  
which God had promised to give  
their ancestors. It was a good,  
rich and plentiful land but Israel  
took it and the Lord who gave it to  
them for granted. While not  
implying that Israel has received  
anything other than its just  
deserts, Ezra does ask God not  
to underestimate the pain of what  
Israel are having to suffer.

## **Listening:**

## **Praying:**

Grant us a clearer, deeper sense  
of the new life you give us in  
Christ

- help us grasp the folly of riding  
roughshod over your plan for  
human living
- help us see that so much of  
what makes life difficult is self-  
inflicted
- help us seize the opportunity  
of following your advice and  
abiding in your truth

Father: at times I see life's  
difficulties as undeserved, unfair  
and random, and then at other  
times I see the source of the fault  
as unmistakably me. Either way, I  
ask for your mercy. Amen

## **Doing:**

Friday, 05 October 2016