

July 8, 2018

Restoring Foundations

The Restoration of Worship: Ezra 3:1-13

This Bible study lesson is developed to use in preparation for Pastor Jared's sermon on Ezra Chapter 3.

1. From Pastor Jared's sermon on Chapter 2, what did you learn about God's faithfulness to His covenant promises and the importance of individuals? How does this understanding impact your relationship with your Heavenly Father?
2. Read 2 Chronicles 36:17-19 and Jeremiah 25:8-12. What was the state of the land and temple when the Israelites returned after the 70-year exile? What impression do you think it made on the people who returned?
3. Read Ezra 2:70-3:1, Exodus 20:8-10, and Leviticus 23:23-25. After the Israelites settled in their towns, what was the first thing they did? Why was this significant? What does this show about the condition of their hearts?
4. Read Ezra 3:2-3, Exodus 20:24-26, and 1 Chronicles 3:4-5 & 17. Who initiated the rebuilding of the altar? What is the significance of their heritage? What instructions did they follow for the construction and why was it important for them to go back to the original instructions? In what do we as a body of Christ need to be obedient in despite possible opposition?
5. Read Ezra 3:4-6, Numbers 29:12-39, and Joshua 22:27. How did the Israelites celebrate the Festival of Tabernacles? What were they required to offer each day? What did the offerings signify?
6. Read Hosea 6:1-6, Micah 6:6-8, Psalms 40:6-8, Hebrews 11:6, and Romans 12:1-2. Were the offerings and sacrifices by themselves enough to please God, why or why not? What does God desire of you?
7. Read John 1:29, Hebrews 10:1-10, Romans 3:20-26, and Ephesians 2:1-10. How are your sins truly forgiven? What has God done for you that no amount of sacrifices can achieve? What do you need to do to receive God's forgiveness?
8. Read Ezra 3:7-9. Who participated in the work on the house of God and how? Who supervised the building? Why was that significant? How are you participating in building God's spiritual house at GracePoint?
9. Read Ezra 3:10-13. When the foundation was laid, what were the responses? Why do you think some wept? What things in your life do you look back on and have a similar response? What will you do with that?
10. Why do you think the Israelites rebuilt the altar and restored sacrificial worship before they laid the temple foundation? What is missing in your individual and our corporate worship at Gracepoint that needs to be restored before we can begin the work God is calling us to?