

Restoring Foundations

Restoring Humility: Ezra 8:1-36

This Bible study lesson is developed to use in preparation for Pastor Jared's sermon on Ezra Chapter 8.

1. From Pastor Jared's sermon on Chapter 7, how did Ezra's devotion to the scriptures impact King Darius' view of him and his return to Jerusalem?
2. Read Ezra 8:1-20 with Ezra 7:7. What groups were among the Israelites that accompanied Ezra in his trip from Babylon to Jerusalem? What group was originally missing and what does Ezra do about it?
3. Read Romans 12:4-8 with 1 Corinthians 12:12-31. How does Paul describe all those who are in Christ? What happens if there are parts of the body that are not present or not participating in using their gifts? How are you using your gifts within the Body of Christ at GracePoint and why is this an important question for each of us to ask?
4. Read Ezra 8:21-23 with Ezra 7:8-9. Before leaving Babylon why did Ezra gather the people together? Why did he not want to ask the king for protection on their journey? How did the trip go for them and who did they credit with their safe arrival?
5. Read Ezra 7:10 with Deuteronomy 31:1-6, Psalms 107:1-8, and 1 Peter 5:5-7. How did Ezra know he could rely on God when he refused the king's protection? What role does humbling ourselves have in our ability to trust God in difficult situations?
6. What truth about God have you proclaimed, but now need to call upon Him to fulfill? How does this perspective emulate Hebrews 11:1-2?
7. Read Ezra 8:24-30. What did Ezra give the Priests to carry with them on their Journey and why might this cause them to be afraid to travel without the king's protection? What specific instructions were the priests given and why was it important for them to know that they, and the gold and silver they carried, were set apart for the Lord?
8. Read Ezra 8:31-34. What do they recognize when they first arrive in Jerusalem? After they rested what did they do with the offerings they brought with them? Why do you think it was important to account for everything both by number and by weight? Why should those who are responsible for how the money is spent in the church be held to such a high level of accountability?
9. Read Ezra 8:35-36. How does our worship of God show who our focus is on during our trials and in safely coming through them? How will you humble yourself before God this week, praising Him and trusting Him in all circumstances?