

Summary notes by Heidi for the message...

Lessons from the book of Ezra- Sis. Robyn (2.2.14am)

We are the lively stones making up the building of the church. The church is not in rack and ruins, but it is still being built. The book of Ezra encourages us to make it

Eph. 2:19-22

The church continues to grow as people are added to it.

Ezra 1:1-2

There is one thing that was upon the prince's heart. Everything was at his fingertips, however there was not a place to worship. It is the same today- we have everything we ever need, never lonely with the plethora of social media, but people today also need to see that there is a place to worship The Lord, a place to worship, the home of the soul.

SEPARATION

Ezra 2:61, 62

People didn't take on the name- they were polluted. If you sit there, you accept what is said, however when you make a stand, you separate yourself.

Separation is a hard thing- step out onto ledge. Put away those things that will separate you from God.

In Ezra the priesthood checked 42000 names. They were very thorough, only finding one family that didn't belong. If they were that careful, we too should take the same care.

FOUNDATION

Ezra 3:10-13

The book of 1 John is a good book to lay a foundation- no Christian sins, Christians love one another (regardless of what it is about), love not the world (deny the lust of the eye).

Never forget your foundation- what God taught you from the very beginning, the things that were first laid on your heart. Never forget the moment that The Lord saved your soul- rejoice as much as you want.

Rejoice at every step along the way, thank God for every progression.

DONT EXPECT A ROUND OF APPLAUSE

There will be adversaries on either side.

Ezra 4:1-5

God has a predetermined plan. Where there is no purpose, people perish. Simply ask God, how can I add to the gathering of his people. It might be a Psalm, song, etc. Where we lack purpose, we no longer sew to the spirit. There are events which might try and frustrate your purpose, particularly the devil, who walks around seeking who he will devour. Keep your eyes on the purpose regardless of tests, trails and persecutions.

FASTING

Ezra 8:21-23

Some spirits don't come out but through prayer and fasting. When it comes to convincing the gainsayers, if it was laying out the scriptures, it would be easy, but the powers of a darkness need to be broken. Fasting is putting the will of God and our spiritual needs above food.

A righteous man avails much- with prayer, the possibilities are limitless.

GOD IS WELL ABLE

Ezra 8:22

Jehoshaphat fought the battle with the strength of God. Without him, the battle would have been impossible. Trust in him- the righteous run into him and are saved.

All these lessons help make the church more visible than any other group and should be a great encouragement to us. Keep these lessons to fulfil the plan in your lives.