



INTRODUCTION

The People of Israel are obeying God's guidance to rebuild the temple when they are faced with oppositions. As we examine their reaction we can begin to know our enemy, how to endure the attack and how to overcome. We can discover the truths found in this text are the same truths we need today. We can learn a lot from the Israelites but ultimately we need to learn from the only true Israelite, Christ himself.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

Know the Enemy Ezra 4:1-3

1. When should Christians be prepared to compromise? When should they refuse?
2. What are some other areas, temptations, people, trends, etc, that advertise as a help but end up being a tool of the Enemy?
3. What is the best way to know the Enemy? Think of specific or general ways the life of Christ, His preaching, His death and resurrection help you identify who the Enemy is? What can you do to be more aware of the Enemy?
4. What is the difference in using God's Word to be wise in God's ways and just using it to create rules of right and wrong or how to "succeed"? How does this affect how we identify our Enemy?

Endure the Enemy's Attack Ezra 4:4-23

1. Since our temptations are numerous and it is more than a one time attack, what are some way you plan to endure? Do you need to have an attitude change or maybe create some new habits?
2. What connections can you make between the Garden of Eden, Ezra and Matthew 4:1-17. How does this encourage you to praise God?
3. What gives you hope in the fight? What specific battles has God won for you? Praise Him together.

Overcome the Enemy in Christ Ezra 4:24

1. What evidence do we have for believing that God's purposes always prevail in the long term?
2. Read Eph 6:13-18. Review together specifically how Christ has fulfilled each part of the armor and how He has won the Battle?
3. Why did God allow you to hear this message today? What battle are you in that you need to know the Enemy, endure the attack, and overcome through Christ? Pray together for these concerns.

If you desire sing "A Mighty Fortress" by Martin Luther together to celebrate Christ's Victory!