

RE- BUILDING THE KINGDOM



Ezra 5-6 From Wasteland to Worship

Discussion Questions

INTRODUCTION

After being miraculously delivered from captivity and placed back in the Promise Land the Israelites found themselves in a wasteland. This wasteland was not primarily physical but was dominated by their idolatry and idleness. When examining our lives we can see that we are like the Israelites, even after being miraculously delivered and given a mission, we can become lazy and turn our eyes to evil things. May God give us a clean and pure heart that is ready to step forward in mission as we gaze upon His great work and worth.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

Repent of your Idolatry that characterizes your wasteland (Ezra 5:1-5; Hag. 1:2-9)

What has God shocked or stirred you up to repent of your idolatry lately in an effort to draw you to Him through repentance and faith in Jesus? In what ways has your idleness led to that idolatry?

In what ways is Jesus familiar with your wasteland experience? How specifically does this encourage you to repent and cling to Him for your only hope?

Mourn your sin and Idolatry with Appropriate sadness (Ezra 5:1-5; Hag. 2:2-3)

What sins have you tried hard to hide or have you become numb to? How can you properly mourn your sin but not to become self-focused? Review Col 2:14 to help you answer. How does the Lord's Supper relate to this process of repentance?

Fight Sin with God's Word and God's Work (5:1-5; Hag 2:4-5)

If your identity was not a redeemed child of God what would it be? How does your identity as a member of God's covenant people give you hope and strength to fight? Recall together how it is possible that this identity is given to us?

How does focusing on God's mission help you fight your own sin?

Respond to God's Deliverance with Joyful Worship (Ezra 6:14-18; Hag. 2:6-9)

Call and response: Who made you? Who delivered you? Who is interceding for you? Who is sanctifying you? Who will glorify you? Who is preparing a place for you?

Continue Celebrating God's Deliverance by Feasting on Christ (6:19-22)

What does it look like in your life to celebrate God's deliverance? How can you feast more on Christ daily? What is one habit or discipline you can realistically start this week that will enable you to feast?