

February 8, 2015 – Pastor Leif Holmes

Title: Restoring the Temple – Part 2

Text: Ezra 4-6



POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- Begin Well. Read Ezra 3:11-13
 - Why were there such varying reactions to the completion of the temple's foundation?
 - Can you understand both?
 - Read verse 13 again. What do you think the outsiders/foreigners thought of what was going on?
 - How can the restoring of the temple parallel our corporate prayer lives?
 - Do you identify with the older generation or the younger generation in their reaction? Why?
 - What can we learn **from** this?
 - Explain the significance of the picture below in light of Sunday's message.



VERSUS



- Do you ever feel like you've wasted your money shopping for something?
- Do you ever **feel like** you've wasted your time praying for something?
 - Which is more engaging to you – praying or watching TV?
 - Why?

- Two suggestions:
 - **Start** _____ & start _____
 - Who else modeled this for us (in the Bible?)
- Persevere.
 - What happened once the people finished the foundation? (See beginning chap. 4)
 - Where did the opposition come from?
 - Why did it **happen**?
 - How did the **people** respond?
 - How do YOU **respond** to opposition in prayer?
 - How can we apply the concept of *restoring the temple* to our church's prayer life?
- End Well. Read Ezra 6:14-15.
 - Why were the people greatly encouraged?
 - Why is this **significant**?
 - How can praying **with** others keep you focused and keep you fresh?
 - You can repair the altar PERSONALLY, but we need to restore the temple TOGETHER
 - What are **some** practical steps (either mentioned or your own ideas) that we can do to put this into practice? (Ex. – “praying it forward”)
 - Give at least one “take away” from this lesson that you want to apply to your life.
- Bible verses referenced: Haggai 2:3, Zechariah 4:10
- Action Steps:
 - Set up time to pray with someone weekly (in person or over phone)
 - Join church prayer chain
 - Attend prayer meeting(s)
 - Pray through church roster

“And remember, it is a message to obey, not just to listen to. So don't fool yourselves.” James 1:22 (The Living Bible)

- Podcasts of today's message as well as past messages can be found @ www.rochesterlife.org