

Ezra: Set Your Heart

Worship, the Temple, and the God You Can't Look Away From

Ezra 1; 7; 9–10

1. Show Up: The Environment Can't Decide for You // Ezra 1:1–11

- God stirred Cyrus. The exiles returned. The temple was built. And for 60 years, no one showed up.
- The temple, the menorah, the altar — none of it is worship. Worship is you setting your heart upon God.
- No groom streams his own wedding. Until your heart is fixed on God, the building is just architecture.

Psalm 27:4

“For one thing I have asked from the LORD, that I shall seek: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD.”

2. Look Up: God-Appointed Leaders Point to God, Not Themselves // Ezra 7:10, 8:15

- Ezra was a descendant of Aaron and had set his heart to study the law of the Lord. Those two things together made him God's man.
- A spiritual leader can only lead you where his heart is. If it's chasing God, you'll chase God. If it's chasing his ego, that's what you'll be chasing.
- God appointed the Levites 987 years before Ezra arrived. They weren't serving because a previous leader had hand-selected his own team instead.

3. Guard Your Heart: Worship Shapes Who You Become

- When Israel married the women of surrounding nations, they married their gods. You cannot worship God with a divided heart.
- The most intimate, life-defining thing about you is what you worship. Who you share your life with shapes what you set your heart on.
- If you and your partner don't agree on what you worship, you will live a life of divided devotion.

Ezra 9:1–2 // 2 Corinthians 6:14

“Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness?”
