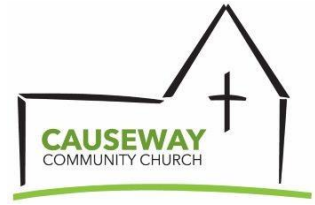


EZRA 3:7-13

SUNDAY 10th MAY



BIBLE

EZRA 3:7-13

Ask God for help for yourself and the church as we read His word
Read Ezra 3:7-13

LISTEN

SERMON BY SPENCER

Please click [here](#) to listen to the sermon

REFLECTION

QUESTIONS AND NOTES

- What do you think of emotional responses in church? What can be good and what can be bad?
- Desire to rebuild
 - Read 3:7-10 and compare it with 2 Chronicles 2:3-16 and 5:11-13
 - Why are the people so keen to restore what the temple once was?
 - They are doing more than rebuilding a building. What is the deeper restoration that is going on?
 - Why do we sometimes lack a passion to change from our sinful ways?
 - What would motivate this change?
- Praise and Thanks
 - Why are the people giving thanks and praise?
 - Who are they praising? Why is that significant in response to the work that has happened?
 - What progress in your life can you praise God for?
 - What progress in the church can you praise God for?

→ Weeping

- Why are the older folk weeping?
- What should we weep over?

→ Praise and weeping

- Both weeping and joy are present in Ezra. How should you be challenged? More joy in God and progress or more weeping at sin and brokenness?
- What in our lives can make us numb to both responses?
- How should this lead us to the Good news of Jesus' complete and future work?

→ Summarise and Apply

- What in this passage leads us to worship Jesus?
- What do we learn about ourselves from this passage? How does it lead us to give thanks or repent?
- How might this help us share the good news with our friends and neighbours who don't know Jesus?

PRAYER

RESPOND TO GOD IN PRAISE AND PLEADING

Use this prayer from the book 'Valley of Vision'. Pray in response to the passage, for yourself, the church and others.

Lord Jesus,
I sin - Grant that I may never
cease grieving because of it,
never be content with myself,
Never think I can reach a point of
perfection.
Kill my envy, command my
tongue,
trample down self.
Give me grace to be holy, kind,
gentle, pure, peaceable,
To live for thee and not for self
To copy thy words, acts, spirit,
To be transformed into thy likeness,

To be consecrated wholly to thee
To live entirely to thy glory....
O God, the eternal All, help me to
know that
All things are shadows, but thou art
substance,
All things are quicksands, but thou
art mountain
All things are shifting, but thou art
anchor,
All things are ignorance, but thou
art wisdom.

Amen.