

Review

What was your main take-a-way from this weekends sermon? Why? Share this with your group.

Discuss

1) Before the narrative in Ezra 3, we spoke about Exodus 13:21. This is where the Jews were guided by a pillar of fire by night and pillar of clouds by day. The reality of what was happening was when God moved, the Jews (the people of God) started to move. They understood what it meant to respond to the leading of God. They were aware of God's moving and this informed their response.

In this next chapter of Coast Hills how do you sense God is moving? How is God moving in you? What do you see Him doing?

2) In Ezra 3, the Jews have been blessed with this great opportunity in their history as a nation. The opportunity was to return to their Holy City, Jerusalem. And, to make it better, the trip was bankrolled by the pagan King Cyrus who was used by God in the returning and rebuilding of God's people.

Think about what is really happening here. God uses a pagan king as a catalyst in the restoring process of His people. God uses who He pleases and when He wants to use them. Take a moment to pray over your group. Pray that God will use you (and your group) when and how he desires. Pray that your hearts are open to God's leading.

3) When the Jews returned to Jerusalem the first structure they rebuilt was the altar and "put it in its place" (meaning in the same place as the first altar). There they offered sacrifices daily to God.

For the Jews...why was it so important to rebuild the altar? Why was it so important to offer daily sacrifice?

For you...what does it mean to offer sacrifice? What does daily sacrifice look like today?

God does not need sacrifice, He owns everything. Sacrifice is for us...we need it over and over again. Why would sacrifice be for the one who is actually doing the sacrifice and not for God receiving it?

The altar was the center of worship. Like the altar what happens when worship is the epicenter of our lives?

Response

If you have a sense of how God is moving in your life...then in what way(s) will you respond to Him?

I sense God is....

I feel like my response could be...

Let your group speak into what you share.