

Community Group Study Guide

God's Mission & Our Joy Ezra 5 & 6

Main Idea

God is at work amongst the nations to advance His mission and your participation in that mission is the intersection of your joy.

Overview

1. God providentially moves in the lives of the Israelites
 - a. Moves to provide for them preachers of God's word
 - b. Moves to provide for them Protection as they work on the Temple
 - c. Moves to provide for them rebuke and discipline to have them repent and return to God
 - d. Moves to provide them Finances
 - e. Why? That God's Mission would advance...what is that mission?
2. Temple
 - a. Temple is completed and there is great celebration, great joy in the accomplishment of their immediate mission
 - b. Immediately offered sin offerings
 - c. Temple is pointing to the greater Temple, Jesus Christ, who claimed he would destroy the Temple and raise it in three days (Death and Resurrection for sin)
 - d. Jesus Christ died for sin that goats and bulls no longer need to be offered for the perfect sacrifice has been offered to God once and for all
 - e. All those who repent of their sin and confess Christ then become the Temple, the presence of God is within them
3. Lamb of God
 - a. They also immediately celebrate Passover
 - b. Passover is the celebration of God passing over those who had the blood of an unblemished lamb above their doors as God judged the Egyptians
 - c. They celebrate this also with joy whose source was the Lord...celebrating their people's delivery from slavery into freedom
 - d. John the Baptizer calls Jesus the "Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"...Jesus is the perfect unblemished lamb whose blood takes away sin
 - e. You too can have God's wrath pass over you because of Jesus who's blood was spilled for your sin

Questions

1. Does God providentially act in our lives today? If so what are some areas you have seen Him move recently?
2. Towards what end is He moving in your life? What is the purpose of His activity in the world?
3. How was it that Jesus was the Temple? How is it we are the Temple? Why is this significant?
4. How is it we see Jesus as the Passover lamb? Why is this significant for our daily lives?