

EZRA THE SCRIBE

TEXT: Ezra 7:1-10

INTRODUCTION:

- A. RETURN FROM CAPTIVITY - REBUILDING BY **ZERUBBABEL**.
- B. **EZRA** - DESCENDANT OF AARON - REINSTATEMENT OF THE LAW.
- C. KEY TO DEVELOPING QUALIFICATIONS(**vs. 10**).

IMITATE EZRA!

EZRA HAD SET HIS HEART TO:

I. TO SEEK THE LAW OF JEHOVAH.

- A. GOD'S LAW IS TRUTH AND RIGHT (**John17:17; Psa.119:137-142, 172**).
- B. GOD'S WORD IS SALVATION (**Rom. 1:16; James 1:21**).
- C. WITHOUT GOD'S WORD WE ARE BLIND (**Jer. 10:23; Prov. 14:25**).
- D. DISASTER STRIKES THE IGNORANT:
 - 1. The Jews (**Hosea 4:6**).
 - 2. Gentiles (**Rom. 1:28**). What things? (**context**)
 - 3. Us? (**2 Pet. 3:18; Phil. 1:9**).
- E. IS IT PRECIOUS TO US?(**1 Pet. 2:1-2**).
- F. IS IT IMPORTANT TO US?(**John 12:48**).

II. TO DO IT.

- A. THE LIFE OFFERED BY THE WORD IS IN THE DOING (**James 1:22-25**).
- B. OBEDIENCE HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEMANDED.
 - 1. Even when it was hard (**Gen. 22**).
 - 2. Even when it was inconvenient (**2 Sam. 6**). new cart.
 - 3. Salvation is in obeying (**Heb.5:8-9**).
- C. IN JESUS' DAY (**Mat. 7:21-23, 24-27**).

III. TO TEACH IN ISRAEL STATUTES AND ORDINANCES.

- A. WE HAVE A SOLEMN DUTY (**Heb. 5:12; 2 Tim 2:2**).
- B. THE RESPONSIBILITY IS GRAVE (**James 3:1**).
- C. OTHERS NEED US (**Matt. 9:36-38; Rom. 10:13-15**).

IV. THE KEY: EZRA HAD SET HIS HEART.

- A. SERVING GOD IS HARD SOMETIMES.
 - 1. Some commands are difficult - forsaking old habits, discipline, defending the truth, etc.
 - 2. Opposition is great (**Mat. 10:34-36**).
 - 3. Persecution (**2 Tim. 3:12 - Phil. 1:15-17; Job 2:9**).
- B. WE DARE NOT BEGIN WITH OUR EYES CLOSED (**Luke 14:28; 13:24**).
- C. WE MUST SET OUR HEARTS - COMMIT OURSELVES.
 - 1. More than a casual decision - no return.
 - 2. Theme of **1 Pet. (1:13; 2:21-23; 3:13-15-17; 4:1-2, 19)**.
 - 3. What will Jesus guard? (**2 Tim. 1:12**).
- D. PREOCCUPATION – DETERMINATION (**Josh.24:15; 23:6; Col.3:1-2**).

CONCLUSION:

- A. WE CANNOT STRESS ENOUGH THE IMPORTANCE OF LEARNING, TEACHING, AND DOING GOD'S WILL.
- B. ARE OUR HEARTS SET?