

Worship Restored

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication - *Nick & Heather Wilkinson*. Bailey Melanie.
- B. Slide3 Pray for **Elementary camp**. **Haiti team** (leaving tonight/Spousta's). **Belize team** (Leaving tomorrow).
- C. JM4 CD's from all the teachers/workshops/photos. They are already uploaded on the churches *Justice page*...Or you can pick a CD up on Sunday [It will be 1 CD with all the speakers].
- D. Need someone to take 2 tables & 20 chairs over to the Quillen's (in Murr) for Sunday Baptism.

II. Intro:

- A. So, how do I restore things after Gods chastening is complete...after I've blown it so bad?
 - 1. Israel...repented (in Babylon) then Gathered, Worshiped, Celebrated, Worked & Sang.
 - 2. Might be a good model for us?
- B. Upon their return the Jews soon accomplish 3 of their goals:
 - 1. **The Altar is rebuilt** (1-3) & daily sacrifices are immediately resumed.
 - 2. **The Festival of Tabernacles/Shelters is observed** (4-6).
 - 3. **The Temple construction is begun** (7-9).
- C. **Outline:** Gathering Together. Worshiping Together. Celebrating Together. Working Together. Singing Together.

III. WORSHIP RESTORED (1-13)

- A. Slide4 Gathering Together (1)
- B. Uniting together *as one man* is the 1st key.
- C. Slide5 Worshiping Together (2,3)
- D. It would have been very easy to be *content* with their arrival & resettlement.
 - 1. Slide6 But they immediately go to work on the central feature of the Temple...**the Altar** (w/o this they could not **approach** God or expect His **blessing**)
 - 2. They placed Worship 1st...this is a great illustration of Mt.6:33 **But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.**
 - a) So they did.
- E. (3) **Fear** had come upon them because of the people of those countries.
 - 1. Because of this they were **acutely aware** of the need for **God's protection**.
 - 2. In the following chapters we'll see their fears were completely justified.

- F. **Slide7 Celebrating Together** (4-7) [Tab/Shukkot/booths/Feast of Ingathering (as it was at the completion of the Harvest)]
1. This was a joyful feast of thanksgiving. [It's actually a *Jewish Thanksgiving* of sorts]
 2. To remember their time in the wilderness in tents, so they would always remember not to *dig in* to this world, but to view it as a temporary place. So they'd stay in tents/make shift *lean-to's* for a whole week.
 3. This was the most joyful feast of the year. A festival packed with Joy & feasting lasting 1 whole week.
 4. This came right after the Day of Atonement.
 - a) True Joy comes only when we know we are right w/God.
 - b) **Slide8** Ps.51:7,8,12 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; Wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Make me hear joy and gladness, That the bones You have broken may rejoice...Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, & uphold me by Your generous Spirit.
 5. **Parents:** next camp-out you take your tikes on, use this as a mini-devotion, a reminder that *we are pilgrims also, we're just passing through*.
- G. **Slide9 Cedar Logs** from Tyre/Sidon to Joppa/Jaffa. Perhaps an echo of Solomon's preparations.
- H. **Slide10 Working Together** (8-10)
- I. How did they know how to build it?
 1. **The Scriptures** told them all they need to know to rebuild the temple.
 2. They simply followed God's plan.
 - J. **Slide11 The foundation** (10) is the most important part of the structure because it determines the **size, shape, & strength** of the structure.
 - K. Do you have the right foundation for your life? Do you know how to build it? Are you following God's plan?
- L. **Slide12 Singing Together** (11-13)
- M. **Sang responsively** - The structure of Psalm 136 suggests that it was used **antiphonally**.
1. **Antiphonal** = is a short sentence that is **sung, recited, or played alternately** by **2 groups** in worship, with **one part** of the congregation making a statement or phrase **and the other part** responding with the refrain.
- N. **Wept** – remember some of the men *watching all of this*, were **alive** when Nebuchadnezzar burned the Temple to the ground.
- O. **Slide13 Read Haggai 2:3** it let's us know that this Temple was kind of *plain* compared to the last
1. There was **no ark, no visible glory**, actually even **no temple** at this point...**only** some beginnings, and small beginnings at that.

a) Thus Haggai & Zechariah were the prophets of the day, in the same context (Temple being rebuilt) Zechariah adds in 4:10, *For who has despised the day of small things?*

P. Slide14 Do you despise the *small things* God is doing in your life? [always look back to the foundation]

1. These small things add up. **Small things** are ordained by a **very big God**.
2. Instead of despising & becoming discouraged with the small & the ordinary, rejoice!
 - a) God is working in & through *them* for His everlasting **glory & your eternal joy**.
3. Here are some examples:
 - a) Don't despise the small things of **prayer**, **by means** of which God changes people's hearts.
 - b) Don't despise the small things of **service** in the local church, **by which** God is glorified and people encouraged.
 - c) Don't despise the small things of **working** in the seemingly insignificant place like the **church nursery**, **by which** you reflect Christ like love and compassion.
 - d) Don't despise the small things like **daily bible reading**, **by which** your heart is transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit.
 - e) Don't despise the small things of **daily obedience and sacrifice** **through which** your heart is trained and molded after the Savior.
 - f) Don't despise the small things of **putting sin to death**, **by which** you are responding to the victory Christ has won for you.
 - g) Don't despise the small things like **gospel joy**, **these things** indicate you are alive and God is thrilling your soul with his son.
 - h) Don't despise the small things like **not getting bitter and walking in the Spirit**, **by which** you promote the power of the gospel.
 - i) Don't despise the small things like **daily loving, leading and learning your wife**, **through them** you begin to more clearly reflect Christ's love for the church.
 - j) Don't despise the small things like **respecting and submitting to your husband**, **by them** you showcase the beauty of Christ's submission to his Father.
 - k) Don't despise the small things like **honoring your parents**, **by them** you demonstrate that there is a God who is bigger than you, whose authority you value.
 - l) Don't despise the small things like **working hard at your job or school everyday**, **in these things** you show that there is something *more profound, more powerful, more worthy than* the fluctuating value of the American dollar.
 - m) Don't despise the small things like **speaking of Christ to others**, **by which** unbelievers may come to trust and treasure Jesus.
 - n) Don't despise the small things of **corporate worship, the singing of songs and preaching of the word**, **through which** there is an *announcement* of the kingdom of our Lord Jesus.
 - o) Don't despise the day of **small things**, **but Rejoice! Rejoice!**

Q. Slide15 Temples in Scripture:

1. **Solomon's** – David's Heart to build God a home. Destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar in 586bc, at the destruction of Jerusalem.
2. **Zerubbabel's** – Completed & dedicated (516bc). Desecrated in 169bc by Antiochus Epiphanes.
3. **Herod's** – was actually a restoration of Zerubbabel's. It was built from 19bc-to nearly complete in ad70, when Titus destroyed it. *Since then, no physical Temple.*
4. **Present Temple** – In the *heart* of the believer. *Your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you. You are the temple of the living God.*
5. **Temple of Rev.11** – Will be constructed during the Tribulation, then desecrated by the man Anti-Christ. Then destroyed at end of trib.
6. **Millennium Temple** –Ezek.40-42 gives the details. The builder the Messiah Himself.
7. **Eternal Temple** – Rev.21:22 says there is no temple in New Jer. *Because, the Lord God Almighty & the Lamb are its Temple.*
8. **Haggai 2:9** says, *The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former (i.e. Zerubbabel's remodel of Solomon's) Why? Because Jesus visits it personally.*

R. **Slide16** We need to be careful *looking back* to the past though.

1. **The old** looked back & **wept**. **The young** looked ahead & **rejoiced**. [Tears & Cheers]
2. Be careful not to concentrate on **your past**, *least* you rob yourself of a **glorious future**.

S. **You can't change the past, but the past can change you.**

1. **Either for the better or for worse**. **Example?** [makes you *bitter or better*]
2. **The Past** can be a **rudder** that **guides** you **or** an **anchor** that **hinders** you.
 - a) *Or an iceberg to sink you* (pstr Todd)
3. **Leave your past** mistakes w/God & look to the **future** by **faith**.

T. **Slide17** The *spiritual building process* is just like the physical building process...*it is a process*.

1. The **project** won't be complete *until* we get to heaven.
2. **Meanwhile**, many around us are **watching** our spiritual building going up.
3. 1 Pet.2:5 **you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.**
4. Yes we are **under construction**...**but** the project is in the hands of **the Master Builder**. That means, *the building will one day be complete...& it will stand forever.*

U. **Where** are you in the spiritual building process?

1. **Just laying the foundation? Well into the project?**
2. **Have resistance or opposition? Maybe you've put things on hold?**

3. Are you just coming out of **captivity**...and thinking about **starting fresh**?
4. How would you describe where you are **right now** in your spiritual life?

V. **Slide18** As they **Sang Responsively** - so will we as **Romulo** leads us in **Psalm 136**.

1. Our response will be, ***His love endures forever.***
2. The word **love** (*hesed*) is **God's covenantal loyal love** which exists forever with His people Israel & with us.