

COMING HOME

A STUDY OF EZRA



WEEK 6: CALLING AND REFORM

Read the Text

Ezra 7

6-10: Ezra went up from Babylonia. He was a scribe skilled in the Law of Moses that the Lord, the God of Israel, had given, and the king granted him all that he asked, for the hand of the Lord his God was on him.

And there went up also to Jerusalem, in the seventh year of Artaxerxes the king, some of the people of Israel, and some of the priests and Levites, the singers and gatekeepers, and the temple servants. And Ezra came to Jerusalem in the fifth month, which was in the seventh year of the king. For on the first day of the first month he began to go up from Babylonia, and on the first day of the fifth month he came to Jerusalem, for the good hand of his God was on him. For Ezra had set his heart to study the Law of the Lord, and to do it and to teach his statutes and rules in Israel.

Main Point

Do you find yourself wondering what God's calling is on your life? In this chapter, we see Ezra step into his calling, and we learn from his example how we can discover and step into our own. Oftentimes, **discerning our calling involves five factors: need,**

desire, gifting, confirmation, and opportunity. In Ezra, we see him fulfill a vital **need** where he calls God's people back to the truth after they went astray. We also see Ezra's **desire** for embracing his calling as he obeys God's call on his life and speaks to the Israelites. Ezra's **gifting** is also on display where God has equipped him with the ability to understand and preach His word. God further affirms Ezra's calling through **confirmation** from outside voices, where even the King acknowledges Ezra's wisdom and ability. Finally, we see clear **opportunity** where everything aligns to allow Ezra to fulfill this calling. We can learn from this example, and as we pray about and ponder our calling, we can ask ourselves what need, desire, gifting, confirmation, and opportunity we see around us.

Reflect Together

1. **Who is God?:** God cares about what we do with our lives. He wants to use us as ministers of his gospel and conduits of His grace. Like we talked about a few weeks ago, He doesn't need us; but He wants us. What do you think about God wanting to use us and call us for His purpose and glory? Why do you think He wants to use us in these ways? How does it make you feel that He wants to use us to further His kingdom?
2. **What has He done?:** Have you ever benefited from someone obeying God's calling on their lives? Maybe it was a youth leader, a mentor, a teacher, etc. How did that impact you?
3. **Who are you?:** We are all uniquely gifted. Before we were even created, God made us for a purpose. Consider your unique gifting and calling. How has God uniquely gifted you?
4. **What are you to do?:** Considering your answer to question 3, what are ways you can apply your gifting to your calling? How are you already doing that, and how would you like to grow in it?

Abide Together

Take some time to encourage one another. It can be difficult to identify our own gifting at times. Go around the group, and share what unique gifting you see in one another.

Mission Together

Now that you have a better understanding of your unique gifting, how could God be calling your MC to apply that through serving and loving others? Talk about ways you can both individually and collectively apply your gifting to be on mission.