

SERMON NOTES: THE VISION 4: HOLY DISCONTENT (24/07/16)

SCRIPTURE

Ezra 8:21-23

KEY POINTS

- + In a season involving a lot of logistics, God is calling us to a spiritual move into the deep: as Christians, one of our constant cries should be for *more* of God and His love.
- + We are called to move from fear to faith—Ezra is presented with an opportunity to trust in man, but chooses to trust in God (Ezra 7:28)
- + We are called to be a Spirit-filled Church, not a fleshly temple.
- + We are called to develop a 'holy discontent', knowing that we are made for flourishing not floundering; knowing that only God can satisfy.
- + We are called to develop a proactive dependency on God, looking to Him and stepping forward in faith and obedience.
- + The Spirit-filled life can be lived where we are, in the rhythms and reality of life as it is now.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + Consider the story about the fish in shallow water (5:04-8:20 on the podcast). Have there been times when you have been 'stuck in the mud...receiving occasional relief from the odd spiritual watering?' Have you seen the Church in this position? What might it look like for you/the Church to move into deeper water; can you think of any biblical examples of this move?
- + Can you recognise any ways you experience a holy discontent? This could be a good opportunity to practice 'group spiritual direction' (as learnt on SG Leader Retreat)—for a few people to share their holy discontent and bringing them before God in prayer.

- + As you consider a flourishing, Spirit-filled life, do you feel that this is within reach where you are right now? Why or why not? Are you waiting for something in particular to happen or change? What is shown— in the Scriptures; in Jesus' life and ministry; in God's truth and work—to help grow your dependency on God and movement into the deep?
- + **What stuck out to you from the teaching?** Did God remind you of something, or reveal something new? Did the Spirit minister to you?
- + **Were any questions raised for you?** Did you get stuck on any scriptures or points? Anything you need clarity on?
- + **Where do we see Jesus Christ in this teaching?** Jesus is at the centre of everything in the Scriptures. It follows that he is at the centre of everything we understand about church, faith and the Kingdom. What in the teaching has helped you see more of Jesus and the cross, or moved you to love him more?
- + **How can you personally apply this teaching?** Identify and commit to something you sense the Spirit is leading you to do in obedient response. Make it actionable and personal. What is in place to help you stay accountable to this?
- + **What/with whom can you share from here?** Who in your life needs to know the truth you've discovered? How can you share it with them?