

### SERMON NOTES: THE VISION 1: REBUILDING THE HOUSE OF GOD (03/07/16)

#### SCRIPTURE

*Ezra 1:1-7*

*Jeremiah 1:4-10*

#### KEY POINTS

- + At the beginning of Ezra, God moves the Babylonian king's heart to allow the Israelites to return to Jerusalem from exile and reestablish the temple and rhythms of worship.
- + Only a remnant returned—those whose hearts God moved—while many stayed in Babylon which had become comfortable and profitable.
- + There is a temptation for the Church to 'press pause' when it grows beyond fragility into a comfortable state. **But humanity is in exile, and the Church must continue to grow for God's Kingdom to advance.**
- + As Red Church walks forward in a season of growth we must remember this and ask God to move our hearts to keep rebuilding for His Kingdom.

#### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + The first chapter of Ezra makes a couple of references to people acting in response to their hearts being moved by God (1:1,5). If this is necessary for building the Church, why do you think God moves some hearts and not others? Are we passive in God choosing to move our hearts or are there ways we can be active/ready to be moved?
  - + What do you *think* about Red Church making a physical move to allow for growth? How do you *feel* about it? How is your heart available to be moved by God? Read Jeremiah 1:4-10. What difference does God's promise of a Kingdom purpose—for both the Church and you personally—make in all of this?
- + Generosity enabled the remnant of Israel to return to Jerusalem to rebuild (Ezra 1:6-7). How is generosity required for the Church to continue to grow—financially, socially, spiritually etc?
  - + **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?