

SERMON NOTES: THE VISION 5: THE CITY NO LONGER DESERTED (7/8/16)

SCRIPTURE

Ezra 3:10-13

Nehemiah 12:27-43

QUOTES

"The remaining towns of Israel represent the lifestyle of the common people of God, whereas the active settling in Jerusalem specifically represents the conduct of those who, having already overcome the struggles of the vices, draw near to the vision of heavenly peace with a clear mind."

KEY POINTS

- + Ezra 3:11-13 shows the mix of Israel's excitement and fear: anticipation for what God was doing but fear over if life in Him could ever be what they had known it to be before.
- + The people had been led to rebuild the foundation of Jerusalem, then the structures, then be refined from idol worship and finally rebuild the wall around the city. But they were living in villages outside the city.
- + God called them to come and live in the city of Jerusalem because He didn't want the temple to just exist as a location for temporary religious duties, He wanted it to function and flourish.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- + There are two main questions as we move into a new venue next week. **What do you want to leave behind, and what do you want to take with you?** Whether you have been part of other churches, or been at Red for a long time, what is God calling you to cling to or let go of as we walk forward? What spiritual strongholds does He want you to be free from, and what spiritual truths has He shown you to stick close to? What

does it mean to you to take with/leave behind these things in moving forward in the way God is leading Red Church?

- + Read Psalm 48. The temple and city of Jerusalem was to be something that declared God's faithfulness, strength and guidance to other nations and future generations. The temple repeatedly failed in this regard, but Jesus was the ultimate fulfilment of the temple, and has given the task (of declaration of God's faithfulness, strength, guidance) to His Church. Is this something we actively carry on as a church community? As individual believers and families?
- + **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?