The Just Shall Live by Faith

Brent Moody · Ezra 3:1–13

INTRODUCTION

- One of the great things about this group that I've seen over the five years I've been here is that people are here to work, not just to watch.
- I want to talk about a spiritual foundation, spiritual things that lead to growth within, growth in our families, and growth in our church.
- Thus says the Lord of hosts consider your ways. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it, and that I may be glorified, says the Lord.

1 Put God's Work First

Haggai 2

- Anytime anything good is going to happen, it takes sacrifice, it requires some sacrifice.
- The lesson that they're learning in this process is to put God's work first.
- When what we think makes sense doesn't line up with what God says, maybe that should make us pause and consider who we're putting our trust in.
- When we aren't prioritizing God and his ways, things just seem to not work.
- It takes sacrifice. It takes trust. It takes courage. It means choosing to prioritize the spiritual. To seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.
- We must intentionally prioritize God's work. Whether it's through worship or service or discipleship, whatever area we're talking about, it's a choice.

2 The Little Things Actually Do Matter

Ezra 3:8

- What I want us to see is the little things actually do matter.
- Prioritizing the things of God means I don't quit on the Lord.
- The very best evangelism program we have is teaching our children.
- If I'm too busy to help with that, I probably need to reorganize my life.
- They all come together and it says they made a beginning together. And that's what I'm calling on you to do this morning.
- We're a doing church, we're not a watching church.

3 Seeing the Big Picture

Haggai 2:3–4

- Don't underestimate the importance of small work and what that means for the future.
- When we build, we're focused on the time to come. What is out there ahead of us? It's not just about the moment.

- We got to have the mentality that we're ready, not just for the moment, but also for the glory that comes in the future from God's work being done in the present.
- It's good to celebrate those small steps, realizing what is coming.
- Just realize that the latter glory of this temple will be greater than the former.
- If all you ever do in the children's classes is be a helper, you're doing great work for the Lord.

THE CHALLENGE

Don't be afraid of the big picture. Be willing to start and to celebrate the small step.

MY NOTES