



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: Overcoming Procrastination

Passage: Ezra 7:6-10

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: One of the greatest obstacles to spiritual growth is procrastination. God speaks, leads, and opens doors, yet too often we delay instead of obey. Following the completion of the Temple, nearly fifty-eight years passed before another major group returned from Babylon to Jerusalem. Many had grown comfortable where they were and were unwilling to take the next step God had for them. Ezra, however, moved forward. How did Ezra overcome procrastination and make meaningful spiritual progress?

I. He Studied the Scriptures

Many people want God to do something great through them, but they are unwilling to spend time learning God's Word.

While others were becoming comfortable in Babylon, Ezra was becoming familiar with God's Word and before God used him publicly, Ezra spent time with God privately.

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path." (Psalm 119:105)

The more time you spend in God's Word, the harder it becomes to remain stagnant.

II. He Obeyed the Scriptures

Knowledge without obedience produces spiritual stagnation.



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"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." (James 1:22)

Many people are waiting for God to reveal the tenth step while ignoring the first step.

The greatest obstacle to spiritual progress is often not rebellion. It's postponement.

Delayed obedience is still disobedience. At some point, we must stop making excuses and start taking steps of faith.

III. He Taught the Scriptures

Ezra understood that God's truth was never meant to stop with him because what God teaches us should eventually flow through us.

The greatest impact of your life may not be what you accomplish personally; it may be what you pass on to others.

A life that seeks God's Word and obeys God's Word eventually becomes a life that shares God's Word.

Conclusion: The tragedy of Babylon was not that the Jews could not leave, but that many no longer wanted to. They had grown comfortable and delayed what God desired for them. Ezra, however, prepared his heart, obeyed God's Word, and moved forward in faith. The question is not whether God has spoken, but whether we are obeying. What step of faith or act of obedience have you been postponing?

"And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him..." (1 Kings 18:21)

The difference between a wasted life and a meaningful life is often found in one simple decision: It is the decision to stop delaying and start obeying.



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