



SUNDAY MORNING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: What's Stopping You?

Passage: Ezra 4

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: There are moments in life when something begins with excitement, hope, and a sense that everything is finally coming together. You can see the progress, feel the momentum, and even celebrate what has already been accomplished. But just as quickly as it starts, something shifts. What once felt certain becomes uncertain. Doubt grows louder, obstacles appear, and the very thing that seemed so promising begins to stall. It is often right in the middle of progress that the real struggle begins, and the question quietly rises, will you keep building, or will you stop?

“But many of the priests and Levites and chief of the fathers, who were ancient men, that had seen the first house, when the foundation of this house was laid before their eyes, wept with a loud voice; and many shouted aloud for joy: So that the people could not discern the noise of the shout of joy from the noise of the weeping of the people: for the people shouted with a loud shout, and the noise was heard afar off.” (Ezra 3:12-13)

I. Attitude (Verses 1-5)

Before anything ever stopped in the hands of the children of Israel, it stopped in their hearts.

At the beginning, the people were excited, passionate, and committed to building the house of God, but somewhere along the way, the voices around them got louder than the voice of God.

“If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.” (Proverbs 24:10)



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The issue isn't the adversity, it's the fainting. When your attitude begins to weaken, everything else follows.

"...This people say, The time is not come, the time that the LORD'S house should be built." (Haggai 1:2)

"By perseverance the snail reached the ark." - Charles Spurgeon

The enemy knows if he can't destroy you outwardly, he'll drain you inwardly. Because once your attitude is defeated, your hands won't stay faithful very long.

II. Accusations (Verses 6-22)

If attitude was the internal attack, accusations were the external assault.

Sometimes the hardest thing to deal with isn't opposition, it's misrepresentation.

"...the accuser of our brethren... which accused them before our God day and night." (Revelation 12:10)

Accusations create distraction. Instead of building, now you're defending. Instead of focusing on the work, you're focused on the noise.

"For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side..." (Psalms 31:13)

If you come down every time someone talks, you'll never finish what God called you to build.

III. Actions (Verses 23-24)

The enemy's goal is not always to destroy you, but to delay you. Not always to bring ruin, but to stall you.



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Because if he can just get you to stop building, then he's already won more than he should.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9)

"Never give in, never give in, never, never, never..." - Winston Churchill

Most people don't stop because they can't continue; they stop because they decide not to.

Conclusion: Where are you at? Maybe you need to begin building your life on the foundation of Jesus Christ, or maybe as a believer, you have stopped building. Whatever the reason, do not let pressure or distraction hold you back. Others are depending on your lighthouse to be finished. Today is the day to renew your commitment, realign your priorities, and choose to build something that will last. Do not stop building.

