



SUNDAY EVENING

AT BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH

Title: The Follow Through

Passage: Ezra 10:5-17

Speaker: Associate Pastor David Wood

Introduction: Fresh starts are exciting, but they only matter if we follow through. Throughout Ezra, God had graciously restored His people, bringing them back from captivity, rebuilding the Temple, and restoring worship. Yet despite all God had done, the people once again drifted into disobedience. After Ezra confessed their sin before God, the people committed themselves to obeying His Word. But making a commitment is one thing; following through is another. Ezra 10 shows us three truths that help us faithfully follow through so the fresh start God gives us leads to lasting spiritual progress.

I. Follow Through When It's Inconvenient (Verses 5-8)

Ezra understood something that we often forget: conviction has a shelf life.

When God is working in your heart, that's the time to respond. If you continually push it aside, your heart slowly becomes less sensitive to His voice.

Obedience is rarely convenient.

If you're waiting for a season when you have more time, fewer responsibilities, less stress, and no interruptions, you'll be waiting the rest of your life.



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If obedience only happens when it's easy, it isn't really obedience.

II. Follow Through When It's Uncomfortable (Verses 9-15)

Sometimes God deals with our hearts at exactly the same time life becomes difficult.

Difficulty is not evidence that you're outside of God's will. Many times it's evidence that you're right in the middle of it.

Sometimes the greatest obstacle to obeying God isn't doubt, it's discomfort.

Temporary discomfort is a small price to pay for a lifetime of God's blessings. Don't let a little rain keep you from experiencing what God has for your life.

After Ezra spoke, the people answered and there wasn't any debate or negotiation. They simply acknowledged that God's Word settled the matter.

III. Follow Through When It's Costly (Verses 16-17)

Sin always leaves consequences, and obedience isn't always easy.

Spiritual maturity isn't measured by how you start; it's measured by whether you finish. The greatest acts of obedience are often the most expensive.

Following Christ will always cost us something. It may cost our pride, a relationship, a habit we've held onto for years, or even our comfort and our plans, but the cost of obedience is always far less than the cost of disobedience.



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The people in Ezra decided that whatever obedience required, it was worth it, and they finished what God had called them to do.

Conclusion: As we've seen throughout this passage, obedience is often challenged by inconvenience, discomfort, and personal sacrifice. Yet God's people chose to follow through. The same question confronts us today: Where has God called you to obey, but you've stopped short? The Christian life is not built on good intentions or emotional moments, but on faithful obedience. Just as a golfer's follow-through determines where the ball goes, our spiritual follow-through determines the direction of our lives after God speaks. Don't just make commitments to God. Follow through.



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