

QUESTIONS FOR THE CROSSROADS

MARCH 7, 2021

I. FIVE QUESTIONS FOR THE CROSSROADS

Ezra 8:15 I assembled them at the canal that flows toward Ahava, and we camped there three days.

1. *Where am I trying to go?*

A. Being double-minded.

James 1:8 Such a person is double-minded and unstable in all they do.

B. Feeling disappointment.

Luke 15:28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him.

James 3:14-16 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth. Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.

Ezra 8:15 I assembled them at the canal that flows toward Ahava, and we camped there three days. When I checked among the people and the priests, I found no Levites there.

C. Staying comfortable.

2. *What is the state my heart?*

Ezra 8:21 There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.

A. When I humble myself, I remember who God is.

B. When I humble myself, I remember who I am.

1 Peter 5:6 Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time.

3. *What are my priorities?*

Ezra 8:21 There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.

A. The Priority of People

- *You cannot expect to have greater influence if you are not faithful with the influence you have.*

B. The Priority of Future

- *How will you leave a legacy of faith?*

C. The Priority of Responsibility

Ezra 8:24-25 Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests, namely, Sherebiah, Hashabiah and ten of their brothers, and I weighed out to them the offering of silver and gold and the articles that the king, his advisers, his officials and all Israel present there had donated for the house of our God.

- *God looks for people who are willing to carry their weight.*

4. *What am I trusting God for?*

Ezra 8:21 There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.

Matthew 7:7-8 Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

A. Trust God for the big things.

Ezra 8:22-23 I was ashamed to ask the king for soldiers and horsemen to protect us from enemies on the road, because we had told the king, “The gracious hand of our God is on everyone who looks to him, but his great anger is against all who forsake him.” So we fasted and petitioned our God about this, and he answered our prayer.

Psalms 37:4 Take delight in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

- *Prayer does not force God into our will. Prayer aligns us with God’s will.*

1 Peter 5:7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

B. Trust God because He cares.

5. What is my next step?

Ezra 8:21 There, by the Ahava Canal, I proclaimed a fast, so that we might humble ourselves before our God and ask him for a safe journey for us and our children, with all our possessions.

A. Step into the presence of God.

Ezra 8:31 On the twelfth day of the first month we set out from the Ahava Canal to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he protected us from enemies and bandits along the way.

B. Step out in faith.

C. Seek God at the Crossroads.