DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The returning exiles were a small remnant with limited resources, but God still told them to take courage and work. What usually makes us feel too small, too unprepared, or too limited to do what God is asking?

- Some people shouted for joy while others wept over what had been lost. How can we faithfully grieve what is gone while still recognizing what God is doing now? What helps us avoid getting so focused on the past that we miss the greater work God may be doing ahead?

- Before they rebuilt the Temple, they rebuilt the altar. What does that say about the priority of worship? In what ways can our own priorities slowly get out of order without us realizing it?

- Israel had come to rely more on the Temple than on the Lord. What are some good things we can begin to depend on more than God Himself? How do we recognize when that shift has happened?

- What is one area where fear, limited resources, or difficult circumstances may be holding you back from obeying God, and what is one step of faith you can take this week?

E2E- Part 121
Ezra 3
Mark Kring, Senior Pastor
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NH MESSAGE

1. The returning exiles were only a small remnant with limited resources. God told them to take courage and work because He was with them.

2. God promised the new Temple would have a greater glory than the former one. They knew what God told them to do and had to trust Him to provide.

3. Before rebuilding the Temple, the people gathered as one and built the altar. Their first priority was worship.

4. They were terrified of the people around them, but they worshiped anyway. Courage is the will to act in spite of fear.

5. Their worship showed dedication and commitment to God. They did it according to what was written in the law of Moses.

6. Even without the Temple, they discovered they could still worship God. The previous generations, prior to the Babylonian exile, had come to rely more on the Temple than on the Lord.

7. Even though they were small in number and poor in resources, they set high standards for doing God's work.

8. When the foundation was laid, the people praised God for His goodness and steadfast love. Some shouted for joy while others wept over what had been lost.

9.

GREEK & HEBREW WORDS

Yhwh Shalowm (yhwh - shaw-lome´); [compound] 'Yhwh (is) peace'; Yhwh-Shalom :—

QUOTES

"...in length a little short of a cubit; it is a narrow tube, slightly thicker than a flute."
- **Josephus *(Antiquities. III)***

...should they not bewail their former iniquities? No: I think that the mixture of feeling was precisely such as the occasion called for.
- **Charles Simeon - 1836**

TODAY'S WORSHIP

NH
NOTES