

“Ezra - A Person of Influence”

David Owens

Scripture Reading: Ezra 7:6-10 (Sermon covers Ezra 7-8)

6.29.14

Introduction:

- A. Today, I want us to ask ourselves: “What kind of _____ do I have on _____?”
- B. What _____ do my words, my _____, and my service have on others?
- C. Today, we are going to be introduced to _____, and we are going to see the kind of _____ he had on God’s people.

I. The Story.

- A. The first ____ chapters of Ezra are all about the first group who returned to Jerusalem and rebuilt the _____.
- B. Ezra isn’t mentioned in chapters 1-6, because it was before he was _____.
- C. The phrase “after these things” (7:1) allows us to skip about _____ years.
- D. We date Ezra’s journey to Jerusalem at _____ B.C.
- E. We learn that Ezra is a _____ - _____ and is a descendent of _____.
- F. We learn that the king granted him _____ he asked for, because the “_____ of the _____ was on him.”
- G. Just like in the previous chapters, Ezra the historian gives us first-hand material - he includes a copy of the _____ from king Artaxerxes.
- H. In chapter 8, Ezra lists the family names of the people who decided to travel with him back to Jerusalem. In every case but one, these are the _____ of those Jews who returned 80 years earlier with Zerubbabel.
- I. The three day pause by the river was no waste of time - Ezra discovered there were no _____ in the group.
- J. Ezra also called for a period of _____ and _____.
- K. Because the king had sent a great deal of money and valuable vessels, Ezra put in place a system of _____ and _____.
- L. It took them _____ months to safely finish their journey of _____ miles.

II. The Application - The main lesson I want us to hone in on is the power and influence of life of Ezra.

- A. From Ezra, we learn about the power of a life devoted to the _____ of _____ (Ezra 7:10; James 1:22-25; 2 Tim. 2:15).
- B. From Ezra, we learn about the power of a life devoted to _____ and _____ (Mt. 6:16; Mk. 2:20; 9:23).
- C. From Ezra, we learn about the power of a life dependent upon the _____ of _____.

Answer Key: Intro.A. impact, others. B. influence, example. C. Ezra, impact. I.A. 6, temple. I.B. alive. I.C. 60. I.D. 458. I.E. scholar, priest, Aaron. I.F. hand, Lord. I.G. letter. I.H. relatives. I.I. Levites. I.J. prayer, fasting. I.K. accounting, accountability. I.L. 4, 1000. II.A. Word, God. II.B. prayer, fasting. II.C. hand, God.