

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Redux // Return

Pastor Gabe Kasper

February 18th, 2024

Prayer: Pause for a few moments to go to the Lord in prayer. Ask that He would draw near to you in this time, and open your heart and mind to hear His Word.

Icebreaker: What are you looking forward to the most during your spring break?

Reading: Ezra 2:64-70

Outline:

1. Elite Leaders to Community (64-67)
 - A redux is to bring something back./to revive something.
 - Israel is in a covenant relationship with God. However they constantly rebel against God.
 - There was a massive assembly of over 4,000 people to hear God's word.

Q: What does this tell us about the relationship between God and his people?

2. Narrow Holiness to Spreading Holiness (68)
 - Without direction from Moses, without a priest or a prophet telling them, they know what to do.
 - Holiness is spreading. The remnant recognize the sacredness of this place and this time and enter into it through ritual.
 - As opposed to heading into the day thinking everything you have to face is on you, it reorients you to live from a place of being-at-home in God.

Q: What kind of rituals should we have?

3. Oral Authority to Written Authority (69-70)
 - Post Exilic Period (Second Temple)
 - Through God's word, we see him speak through the prophets.

- God's word binds his people together.

Q: How does God work through his people?

Closing Prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this day, and this time that we get to spend in your word. We ask that you would give us strength to endure all that life may throw at us. Help us to endure in this world and give us peace and understanding as we navigate our own separate journeys in our lives. It is in your name that we pray, Amen.