

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Redux // Restore

Pastor Marcus Lane

March 17th, 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 your plans over Easter?

Reading: Nehemiah 6:13-18

1. Resist Fear (13-14)
  - The rebuilding of Jerusalem is a direct affront to their power & authority in the region»they are seeking to intimidate Nehemiah.
  - Hire a false prophet to frighten Nehemiah & tell him to flee into the sanctuary of the temple (a violation of Levitical law).
  - Their goal here is to use fear & intimidation to frighten Nehemiah into sin and drive a wedge between him and the Jewish people.

Q: How can we resist fear?

2. With God's Help (15-16)
  - In spite of the attempts by surrounding enemies to intimidate, the people complete the restoration of Jerusalem's walls.
  - The work overcame so much adversity that the surrounding nations perceive it was accomplished with God's help.
  - We respond to a world's hatred & division w/ the kindness & love of Christ. We respond to confusion & uncertainty w/ confidence in Christ's promises. We aim to have Christ's own life reflected in us so that the world would see us & glorify him.

Q: How can we accept God's Help?

3. Be Restored (17-18)

- God becomes human » Jesus has taken on what it means to be human.
- Why did God take on humanity? Why did he enter into this world of suffering & sin? To heal it. To bring it back to God & RESTORE it
- Jesus has come to restore you so that you might live with God's help free from fear and reflect this Jesus to the world

Q: How can we open ourselves up to be restored?

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.