

ULC Sermon Study Resource

Redux // Retell

Pastor Marcus Lane

March 3rd, 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: How was your spring break?

Reading: Ezra 7:23-28

Outline:

1. We Retell To See (23-24)

- We often talk about reading the Scriptures and retelling its stories to see what God has done. It is ultimately about history.
- We retell these stories to see what God is doing.
- The Scriptures don't just give us information

Q: In what ways do we retell Biblical stories?

2. We Retell To Be Ready (25)

- Ezra studied and retells the words of the Torah to ready himself and others for the work God had in store.
- People work up the courage to do courageous things by instinct.
- If you want to learn to live like Christ, you need practices that immerse you in his character over and over again by being immersed in his life. The life and teachings of Jesus enable us to not only remember God's work in the past but to see it and be ready to do it right now.

Q: How can we be ready in our daily lives?

3. We Retell To Give Thanks (27-28)

- Ezra doesn't attribute this decree to the favor of the king. He doesn't see it as the result of his own faithfulness and obedience.
- Ezra sees all of what is happening to and for Israel as the result of God's hesed → covenant love & faithfulness, so he gives thanks.
- We all see and feel the deep cynicism of our world. The great gift of retelling the same story of God is that it invites into a different way of being shaped not by cynicism but by joy & thanksgiving.

Q: How can we retell the stories in the Bible to others?

Reflection/Application Questions:

1. How can we live like Christ?
2. How can we communicate scripture to others?
3. How can we give thanks like Ezra?

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.