

What Goes Around

Ezra 5 & 6

God is sovereign; His purposes can't be thwarted!

1. God's people step out (Ezra 5:1-2)
2. Opposing forces step up (Ezra 5:3-7)
3. God Steps in (Ezra 6)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. What's your favorite movie? Why is it your favorite? Do the good guys win? Why do we like to see the good guys win?
2. Read Ezra 3:7 and compare it to Haggai 1:2-3. What have the people done with the cedar logs for the building of the Temple? What does that say about their priorities? Can you think of a time when your own priorities got out of whack?
3. How do you respond to a rebuke? Can you think of a time when a rebuke has been delivered well? How about a time when it was delivered poorly? How did you respond to each?
4. What opposition have you received to your faith? Read 1 Peter 4:12-16. According to that passage, when will we be overjoyed? What should be our response to opposition? What do you say in response to the prosperity gospel that suggests that the Christian life should be smooth and prosperous?
5. Read Psalm 73. What was it that almost tripped up the Psalmist (v2-3)? What does he say about these people (v4-12)? What's his conclusion (v13-14)? Have you ever felt that way? What brings him back to the right perspective (v15-28)? How does our hope in Christ help us when we see evil gaining ground?
6. Can you think of a time when God has stepped in as He did in Ezra 6? What did His stepping in demonstrate? Are you facing an uncertain time right now that your group can pray with you about? How can the difficulty grow your faith?