Ezra 4 – Opposition to the Work (Part 2)

Observations

- Historical context
- (v. 6) letter to Ahasuerus (~486 BC)
- (vv. 7-23) letters to Artaxerxes
  1. Authors (vv. 8-9)
  2. Content (vv. 11-16)
     a. The Jews and Jerusalem

     b. Themselves
     c. Their request
  3. King's reply (vv. 17-22)
  4. Result (v. 23)

Insights / Application

- Mostly narrative
- Jerusalem
  1. Contrast: _____ city (2 Chron. 36:11-13)

     vs. city of _____ (Zech. 8:3-8; Ps. 48:1-2)
  2. Are we maligned because…
     a. …we are _____ citizens, or
     b. …we refuse to _____

  ** *Application*: I need _____ - Where is the line?
  (1 Pet. 2:13-15)

- Jews were stopped by _____ and _____
  1. Did not fight back
  2. "Suffered" because
     a. Sins of their _____ and their _____ disobedience
     b. A sinful _____

  ** *Application*: I need _____ - What's going on?
  Where is the line?

Abiding in Christ's Word: Application – Personal Quiet Time

What is a Quiet Time ?

- A _____ time alone with God each day where I expose my mind, soul, and spirit to the light of God's Word…in an atmosphere of prayer. ⇒ _____ communication with God.
- Elements
  1. Prayer
  2. Bible reading and study
  3. Worship

The Pattern God

Us

The Profile (Psalm 27:7-8)

- My attitude – ___ want to _____ something.
- Seeking God's face – What does _____ get from my quiet time?

The Practical

- How to have a quiet time

- Hints
  1. Consistency
  2. Focus on the _____
  3. Keep a written record
  4. Practice John 15:7 - _____ in Christ's word

Application: Evaluation

- Strength
- Weakness
- Action Step