

You Didn't Build That
Ezra 6:16-22

Review:

1. We are called to build the Kingdom of God through evangelism and missions as well as personal and corporate sanctification
2. But at the same time, we must remember that Christ is the One Who builds His Church by providing the sacrifice for our sins and by purifying our hearts through the power of His Holy Spirit
3. As we build, we must confess our sin and our weakness, rejoicing in our total reliance on Christ and His Work

Reflect:

1. Think about some great deed you have done or a big project you have completed. How did the Lord make your success possible? How does remembering the ways in which He has blessed you fuel both your humility and your faith in Him?

Go Further: Read Esther 8:1-17

1. Esther chapters 3-7 describe how Esther and Mordecai revealed Haman's plot to destroy all of the Jews. How does 8:1 say that King Ahasuerus rewarded Esther?
2. What did the King give to Mordecai? Look at 3:10-12. What did such a ring allow the wearer to do?
3. What authority did Esther give to Mordecai?
4. According to verse 4, what did Esther plead with the King to do?
5. What specific action did she ask the king to take in verse 5? Look at 3:13. What had Haman instructed the Persian officials to do?
6. What did the king tell Esther and Mordecai to do in verse 8? What explanation does he give for not doing what Esther asked him to do?
7. According to verse 9, to whom did Mordecai address his letter? How does this compare with the recipients of Haman's letter, described in 3:12?
8. According to 8:10, by whose authority did Mordecai issue his letter?
9. According to 8:11, what did the letter give the Jews the authority to do?
10. How does 8:15 describe Mordecai's appearance? What was the city's reaction when they saw him receiving such royal honor?
11. How did the Jews react to the letter that Mordecai had written?
12. According to 8:17, where did the Jews rejoice?
13. What did many of the other peoples of the land do and why?

Summary and Application:

1. Notice that even the King of Persia was unable simply to undo the wickedness he had allowed Haman to accomplish. Think of a time when the consequences of your sin continued even after you sought the Lord's forgiveness. How did you try to make the situation better, even if you couldn't undo what you had done?
2. Esther chapter 8 describes how everyone rejoiced when an unjust law was undermined. What kinds of injustices have you rejoiced to see reversed?