

"Don't Make Big Things Small"

Sunday Morning Message by Ray Reynolds (December 15, 2013)

Introduction: Sometimes life is about pig slop and fish guts. That was true for the prodigal son and for Jonah. In ***The Story*** we see the Jews with an abandoned temple. The big question for us is this: What does God do when we make his big thing our small thing? ***The Story*** tells us that three generations have passed in exile in Babylon and God raises up Cyrus, a pagan king, who releases God's people to return to Jerusalem and build their temple. Let's study together

Discussion:

I. God Loves His People (Ezra 1:1-3)

- A. The passion of God
- B. The problem of humanity.
- C. The paradox of life.

II. God Changes the Hearts of Mankind (Ezra 3:1-13, Haggai 1:1-4)

- A. The works started strong.
- B. The work faded fast.
- C. The people needed some motivation.

III. God Uses the Hardships of Life

- A. Tests are good for us.
- B. Trials are good for us.
- C. God's will is good for us.

IV. God Stands With His People

- A. The Lord calls us to stand with Him.
- B. The Lord redirects us to walk with Him.
- C. The Lord re-energizes us to live with Him.

Conclusion: You and I can't forget the things that matter. We often struggle with a spiritual form of dementia or amnesia of the soul. There is no doubt in my mind that is why God calls us to worship Him on the first day of EVERY week. The prodigal son repented and left the big slop. Jonah repented and got out of the fish guts. The Jews repented and finished the temple for God. I wonder if you need to repent and return to your first love, your first passion for God? Is God speaking to you through a season of testing? Are you listening? Are you being distracted from God's purpose for your life? How? Commit to come back and make God's big things your big things.