

Rebuilding the Altar - Ezra 3:1-6

Topics: Actions, Celebration, Fear, Honor, Obedience, Preparation, Restoration, Sacrifice, Tithing

Open It

1. What do you think you would like or dislike about living in Old Testament times?
- * 2. What is your first memory of church?

Explore It

3. At what point in Israel's history did these events take place? (3:1)
4. Where did the Israelites assemble? (3:1)
5. Who began to build the altar in Jerusalem? (3:2)
- * 6. Why did the Israelites build the altar? (3:2)
7. What were the Israelites obeying by building the altar? (3:2)
8. What did the Israelites have to overcome to build the altar? (3:3)
- * 9. Why were the Israelites afraid? (3:3)
10. Of what were the Israelites afraid? (3:3)
- * 11. What did the Israelites do when they had completed their building project? (3:3)
12. Why did the Israelites celebrate? (3:4)
13. On what occasions was it appropriate to give offerings to the Lord? (3:4-5)
14. What happened after the Feast of Tabernacles? (3:5)
15. What had still not been completed at this point? (3:6)

Get It

16. What would you list as your three worst fears?
17. When have you had to overcome your fears to do what was right?
18. How does your fear of what other people think affect your obedience to the Lord?
- * 19. What does God want us to do about our fears and anxieties?
20. Why were the Israelites' sacrifices important?
21. Why do we not continue the Israelites' tradition of offering sacrifices on an altar?
22. What does this passage tell you about the sacrifice that Jesus made by giving His life for our sins?
- * 23. What and how does God want us to give to Him?
24. What do you think you can give to the Lord as an offering?

Apply It

25. How could you thank the Lord today for the gift of Jesus Christ?
26. What is one concrete action you could take this week to combat your fears?
- * 27. What kind of "sacrifice" can you give to the Lord as a freewill offering of praise?