

Returning From Exile – Class 2

Fear Not

Memory Verses:

- **1 John 4:18**
- **Mark 10:32a**

Fear Not Class - Outline

- Review
 - Back Story
 - *In exile because of*
 - Abandoning God
 - Idolatry
 - Climate of fear
 - Persians Conquered Babylon
 - Imagine up to that point
 - All living in fear
 - No real power
 - What an incredible turn-around!
 - 1st thing Cyrus did was to send back the Jews
 - Supplied them
 - **God never abandoned them**
 - Ezra 1-4
 - Ch 1
 - God moved Cyrus' heart
 - Cyrus initiated the return
 - God moved the hearts of the neighbors to give aid
 - Only 50,000 left departed for home
 - *Why such a small number?*
 - They were the ones whose hearts were moved by God
 - Mainly priests and tribal leaders
 - God supplied everything they needed externally
 - *What do we have really, except for what God supplies?*
 - Faith
 - Perseverance
 - Convictions
 - Ch 2
 - Genealogies
 - As if man is defined across generations
 - God's plan bigger than just our life
 - God works in the long-term
 - Leadership standards

- Exclusion because of God's Word
 - Not politically correct
 - Ch 3
 - Assembled as one man
 - *How can that translate to us today?*
 - Made the Word their standard (Vs. 1,4)
 - Worked in spite of their fear
 - **Fear has to be dealt with**
 - Otherwise it will halt our purpose
 - *What enabled them to do that?*
 - The Word
 - Passion for God's Honor
 - The return was the opposite of the exile (v.10-13)
 - They left because they forgot
 - They worked, and as they worked, they remembered
 - Look at the responses
 - *Why were some sad?*
 - Ch 4
 - Why Build?
 - Honor God
 - *What was the significance of the Temple?*
 - Display the greatness of God, Honor God
 - *We have no temple today? How do we show the world God's honor?*
 - *What was the greater display?*
 - The Temple
 - God's people obeying
 - Do the "right thing"
 - Cyrus commanded
 - Is it our purpose to do the right thing?
 - *Love the Lord your God...*
 - Other agendas
 - Sabotage
 - Going with the flow
 - The people were sacrificing to God just because they were put there
 - They would have done whatever wherever
 - Opposition
 - Initial
 - Worked in spite of fear
- Legal
 - Brought the building to a halt

- Was it the temple, or their display of the power of God in their love, devotion, and unity that stirred the opposition?

- Application

- Themes

- Exile
 - Because they abandoned God
 - God never abandoned them, even in exile
 - They remembered God upon restoring the temple
 - Being led by God
 - God may choose people you don't expect to lead you
 - Smooth ride is not promised
 - Those who went had their hearts moved by God
 - Ch 2: God's Word part of God's leadership
 - They had to trust God
 - Fear
 - God is in control
 - Sometimes the bad situations bring about great changes
 - Need to persevere
 - They worked 40 years before stopping
 - Use the Word to deal with fear
 - God's Honor
 - They worked for God's honor
 - No different now
 - Their unity honored God
 - Purpose
 - We are either living God's purpose or we are not

- **Questions**

- Is there ever a point when we cannot return from exile?
 - Does God ever abandon us?
 - How do we seek God's honor now?
 - How can we "Assemble as one man?"
 - How can we deal with fear?
 - How can we deal with opposition?