



**SERIES: MAY- JULY: THE MAIN THING**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Wednesday, 05/18/2022**

**Scripture: Ezra**

**TITLE: Ezra – Life Repair**

In Lincoln, we have this big arcade and entertainment business at our mall. It provides a lot of fun on those cold, rainy nights when you're trapped indoors. A couple of weeks ago, I told my boys, "Let's go to RoundOne. Let's get outta this house!" My two younger sons jumped up and cheered. But my oldest son said, "Nah, I'm good. I'll stay home."

Sometimes, friend, not everyone wants to go to the promised land. In fact, few people want to go. My two sons were the remnant who wanted out. The book of Ezra shares a similar story of a remnant who would return back to the promised land.

The Book of Ezra is one book with Nehemiah in the Hebrew Bible. In our Bible, it is separated, and it bears the name of its author: Ezra. Ezra was penned around 450 B.C. It spans roughly 33 years but has a gap of roughly 60 years between its two parts. Chapters 1-6 focus on the exodus of some Babylonian captives led by Zerubbabel. They return to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple. In chapters 7-10, we find another exodus, and again it is a remnant. This exodus is led by Ezra. The rebuilding isn't a temple but a reformation of the people.

In Ezra, you will meet Cyrus, Zerubbabel, Haggai, Zechariah, Darius, Artaxerxes I, and Ezra.

Is Christ found in Ezra? Not directly. We see important connections and orchestration for the coming of Christ. For example, we see God's continued fulfillment of His promise to keep David's descendants alive. Did you know that Zerubbabel is part of the messianic line? It's true. And there is an important lesson of forgiveness in the Book of Ezra. This lesson typifies Christ's work of restoration, forgiveness, and life repair.

So what's the main thing in Ezra? It's that God is in the business of life repair. And that life repair begins with heart reformation. The Israelites were notorious for the habit of forgetting God. When they did, they ended up in trouble. But God is the God of forgiveness and restoration. In just ten short chapters of Ezra, we see that God can bring restoration to anyone who has wandered far from Him.

Ezra 7:10 says, "[Now Ezra had determined in his heart to study the law of the LORD, obey it, and teach its statutes and ordinances in Israel.](#)" You see, friend, God is in the business of life repair, but it begins when we turn our hearts back to God. God transforms us through a relationship with Him and in engaging in His Word.

So here's my challenge for you today: Do you need life repair? I know I do. If you do, then turn back to God. Stop wandering in the desert. Get out of the captivity of your independence. And

come back to God. Cling to His Word. Engage in it daily. And allow Him to transform you one step at a time, one day at a time.

When we turn back to God, we will win the day.