

Courage to keep spiritual commitments

Ezra 5

- *Review:* When rebuilding the temple stalled 15 years, God sent prophets to prompt them to restart the project (Ezra 5:1-2; book of Haggai).
- I. God's eye: Courage comes as we recognize God watches over us when we obey Him (Ezra 5:3-5).
 - A. Judea's Persian governor questioned if the Jews had authorization to rebuild the temple (3-4).
 - B. The Jews did not allow doubts to stop them because they knew God watched over them (5).
- *Focusing on God's care motivates us to keep commitments – even if someone disapproves.*
- II. God's servants: Courage comes as we focus on who we serve instead of who opposes us (Ezra 5:6-17).
 - A. Tattenai wrote to King Darius to check out the Jews authority to rebuild the temple (6-10).
 - *Focusing on God's word transforms our priorities (5:8/Haggai 1:3-6).*
 - B. Tattenai questioned the Jew's claim that King Cyrus authorized the temple project (11-17).
 1. The Jews served God the creator (11-12).
 2. Cyrus had authorized the project (13-17).
- *Focusing on God's authority gives courage if we conflict with human authority (5:11/ Acts 5:29).*