

“Built for Worship”
First Things First – Ezra 3:1-6

First things first

“On the first day of the seventh month they began to offer burnt offerings to the Lord, though the foundation of the Lord’s temple had not yet been laid.”
(v.6)

We build with complete unity (v.1)

“When the seventh month came and the Israelites had settled in their towns, the people assembled together as one in Jerusalem.”

We build with right priorities (v.2)

“Then Joshua son of Jozadak and his fellow priests and Zerubbabel son of Shealtiel and his associates began to build the altar of the God of Israel to sacrifice burnt offerings on it, in accordance with what is written in the Law of Moses the man of God.”

Jesus: “The Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

We build with fearless energy (v.3)

“Despite their fear of the peoples around them, they built the altar on its foundation and sacrificed burnt offerings on it to the Lord, both the morning and evening sacrifices.”

We build with joyful obedience (v.4-5)

“Then in accordance with what is written, they celebrated the Festival of Tabernacles with the required number of burnt offerings prescribed for each day. After that, they presented the regular burnt offerings, the New Moon sacrifices and the sacrifices for all the appointed sacred festivals of the Lord, as well as those brought as freewill offerings to the Lord.”

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Some things to think & pray through this week

Would you say we are a ‘united’ church? How do we remind ourselves what our unity is based on, and how can we work at keeping our unity as a family of God?

What do the first actions of the people in this story tell us about our priority when we come to worship? How much does repentance play a part in your life with Jesus? How might it become more important to you?

In what ways are you fearful of the culture around us at the moment? What will help you to become more fearless and keep living for Jesus? How can you be ‘wise as a serpent, and innocent as a dove’ (Matthew 10:16)?

Does the Christian life sometimes become a chore? How might you rediscover joy in Jesus? How might this lead to a greater obedience with the right attitude?