

January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dr. Jacob T. King, Senior Pastor

Sermon Title: "Fervent Living"

Text: Ezra 8:21-34 (NASB)

Series: Fervent Prayer and Fasting 2020 (Part 3)

<sup>21</sup> Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods. <sup>22</sup> For I was ashamed to ask the king for a band of soldiers and horsemen to protect us against the enemy on our way, since we had told the king, "The hand of our God is for good on all who seek him, and the power of his wrath is against all who forsake him." <sup>23</sup> So we fasted and implored our God for this, and he listened to our entreaty. <sup>24</sup> Then I set apart twelve of the leading priests: Sherebiah, Hashabiah, and ten of their kinsmen with them. <sup>25</sup> And I weighed out to them the silver and the gold and the vessels, the offering for the house of our God that the king and his counselors and his lords and all Israel there present had offered. <sup>26</sup> I weighed out into their hand 650 talents of silver, and silver vessels worth 200 talents, and 100 talents of gold, <sup>27</sup> 20 bowls of gold worth 1,000 darics, and two vessels of fine bright bronze as precious as gold. <sup>28</sup> And I said to them, "You are holy to the Lord, and the vessels are holy, and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering to the Lord, the God of your fathers. <sup>29</sup> Guard them and keep them until you weigh them before the chief priests and the Levites and the heads of fathers' houses in Israel at Jerusalem, within the chambers of the house of the Lord."<sup>30</sup> So the priests and the Levites took over the weight of the silver and the gold and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem, to the house of our God. <sup>31</sup> Then we departed from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from ambushes by the way. <sup>32</sup> We came to Jerusalem, and there we remained three days. <sup>33</sup> On the fourth day, within the house of our God, the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed into the hands of Meremoth the priest, son of Uriah, and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas, and with them were the Levites, Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Noadiah the son of Binnui. <sup>34</sup> The whole was counted and weighed, and the weight of everything was recorded.

Ezra 1:5:

Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem.

### **1. *Something has been given. (vs.25-28)***

<sup>25</sup> And I weighed out to them the silver and the gold and the vessels, the offering for the house of our God that the king and his counselors and his lords and all Israel there present had offered. <sup>26</sup> I weighed out into their hand 650 talents of silver, and silver vessels worth 200 talents, and 100

talents of gold, <sup>27</sup> 20 bowls of gold worth 1,000 darics, and two vessels of fine bright bronze as precious as gold. <sup>28</sup> And I said to them, "You are holy to the Lord, and the vessels are holy, and the silver and the gold are a freewill offering to the Lord, the God of your fathers.

<sup>7</sup> But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, so that the surpassing greatness of the power will be of God and not from ourselves. (NASB)  
What will God give you when you fast and pray?

## **2. *Something has to be guarded. (vs.29-31)***

<sup>29</sup> Guard them and keep them until you weigh them before the chief priests and the Levites and the heads of fathers' houses in Israel at Jerusalem, within the chambers of the house of the Lord."<sup>30</sup> So the priests and the Levites took over the weight of the silver and the gold and the vessels, to bring them to Jerusalem, to the house of our God. <sup>31</sup> Then we departed from the river Ahava on the twelfth day of the first month, to go to Jerusalem. The hand of our God was on us, and he delivered us from the hand of the enemy and from ambushes by the way.

Guard, through the Holy Spirit who dwells in us, the treasure which has been entrusted to you. (2 Timothy 1:14, NASB)

## **3. *Something will be gained. (vs.32-24)***

<sup>32</sup> We came to Jerusalem, and there we remained three days. <sup>33</sup> On the fourth day, within the house of our God, the silver and the gold and the vessels were weighed into the hands of Meremoth the priest, son of Uriah, and with him was Eleazar the son of Phinehas, and with them were the Levites, Jozabad the son of Jeshua and Noadiah the son of Binnui. <sup>34</sup> The whole was counted and weighed, and the weight of everything was recorded.

1 Cor. 3:13-16 (NASB)

<sup>13</sup> each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it because it is *to be* revealed with fire, and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. <sup>14</sup> If any man's work which he has built on it remains, he will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that you are a temple of God and *that* the Spirit of God dwells in you?