



Ezra 7-8

Cool Hand Luke

- I. The power of our _____ .
(Ezra 7:11–20; I Peter 2:12)
- II. Our need for _____ to be our compass.
(Ezra 7:6, 10–11; Proverbs 22:29)
- III. Our need for _____ to be our default setting.
(Ezra 8:21–23, 31; Hebrews 11:6)
- IV. Our need for _____ hand of blessing in all we do.
(Ezra 7:6, 27–28, 8:18, 31; John 15:5)
- V. Our need for _____ in all matters entrusted to us.
(Ezra 8:24–34)
- VI. Our need to step up and volunteer for _____ .
(Ezra 8:15–20)

Additional Notes:



Diving Deeper in Scripture Together

Questions for Discussion & Reflection

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1. Ezra appears at a moment of spiritual stagnation rather than crisis. What does Ezra's introduction reveal about God's sovereignty in leadership formation? Where might God be calling you to renew faithfulness rather than wait for dramatic change?
2. King Artaxerxes entrusted Ezra with authority, wealth, and responsibility. What does this reveal about how God uses faithful living to influence even unbelieving authorities? How conscious are you that your daily integrity may open doors for gospel influence?
3. Scripture repeatedly shows pagan rulers responding favorably to God's servants (Daniel, Zerubbabel, Ezra). Why does God delight in displaying His glory through faithful witness in hostile contexts? In what settings might God be calling you to live more intentionally as a visible testimony?
4. Ezra is described as "skilled" and "learned" in the Law of God. Yet, there is a difference between knowing about Scripture and being formed by Scripture. Why does God bless the latter more powerfully? What habits could help move you from familiarity with Scripture to deeper formation by it?
5. Ezra set his heart first to study, then to obey, then to teach. Why is this order essential for spiritual credibility? What might it look like to "set your heart" more fully on God's Word this season?
6. Ezra refused a military escort to protect God's reputation. Scripture shows that faith pleases God, not because it is reckless, but because it rests in His character. Why does God sometimes call His people to radical trust rather than prudent caution?
7. The repeated phrase, "the hand of the Lord was on him" emphasizes divine initiative. Jesus teaches (John 15:5) that apart from Him we can do nothing of

eternal value. Why does Scripture consistently downplay human ability in favor of God's enabling presence? What would change in your service if God-dependence replaced self-reliance?

8. God could act without human effort, yet He chooses to work through obedience, preaching, and leadership. Why does God involve His people in His plans? Where might you need to take responsibility rather than waiting passively for God to act?
9. Ezra carefully weighed, counted, and documented the offerings. Why does God care deeply about integrity in practical matters? How does this challenge casual attitudes toward stewardship, accountability, and ministry responsibility?
10. Ezra fasted and prayed but also organized and delegated responsibility. Why is biblical faith never careless? How can you pursue both prayerful dependence and wise preparation in your decisions?
11. In Ezra's day, few Levites initially volunteered for service. Yet, God values willingness over numbers. Why does this encourage faithfulness even when participation seems small? What would "yes" look like if God were asking you to step into harder duty?
12. Which theme from Ezra 7-8 most challenges you right now: integrity, Scripture, faith, diligence, or service?
13. How does Ezra's example reshape your understanding of what it means to live faithfully in a watching world?
14. What is one concrete step of obedience God may be prompting you to take this week?
15. How can this group pray for one another to respond willingly, faithfully, and courageously to the Lord's call?