

DAY 4:

TO SET THE DESIRE OF YOUR HEART

Psalm 27:4: One thing I ask from the Lord, this only do I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze on the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

Psalm 37:4: Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart.

When it comes to setting our hearts in the proper place, there may be no better example outside of Jesus than an obscure often forgotten figure in the Old Testament named Ezra.

He didn't lead the first wave of exiles back to Jerusalem; he led the second. He wasn't a powerful military leader, just a scribe. He didn't even show up in the book that bore his name until chapter 7 (out of only 10). But once Ezra arrived on the scene, he arrived in force.

We learn that the hand of God was all over this man (Ezra 7:6,9,28). That he successfully led 5,000 people with 30 tons of precious metals on a four month, 900 mile journey from Babylon to Jerusalem (Ezra 8). That he was supremely concerned about holiness and the purity of God's people (Ezra 9). And that he ultimately led God's people to repentance like few other scenes we read in scripture (Ezra 10).

So what's the point? The point is that all of Ezra's success can be Biblically directed back to the place where he set his heart. This is the key to Ezra's life of leadership and a clear guide to success with God in our own lives.

- Set your heart to the study of God's word.
- Set your heart to doing God's word.
- Set your heart to giving God's word away.

ASK GOD TODAY How you can set Him as your priority. This is not just about having God as number one on the list. He wants the whole list. He doesn't want to be sequestered to a single part of your life. He wants to be the substance of every part, the logic behind every choice you make. Whether you're singing a worship song or taking a nap, God wants His Kingdom to be your ultimate goal. Think of everything and everyone who is important to you. How can you practically invite God and His Word to be part of that aspect of your life today and moving forward.