1. **Introduction: Who Was Ezra?**
	1. **Zerubbabel** and **Jeshua** the High Priest were instrumental in the **rebuilding of the temple**… **physical rebuilding** (536 B.C.)
	2. **Ezra, who came 16 years later** (520 B.C.), focused on reinstating **the priesthood & temple worship**… **spiritual rebuilding**
	3. **A priest of the lineage of Aaron** (Ezra 7:1-5)
	4. Someone who took his job seriously.
		1. Ezra 7:6, *“he was a scribe* ***skilled in the law of Moses****...”*
			1. **“Skill” doesn’t come easily!** (2 Timothy 2:15; Mark 7:9)
			2. He helped listeners **understand & make application**:
			(Nehemiah 8:5-6, 8-12; 9:1-3; 10:29)
			3. **He understood the job**: (Malachi 2:1-7; Ezra 7:14, 25)
			4. **Trembled at the sinfulness of others and did not neglect it**. (Ezra 9 & 10)
			5. **Chose service over convenience**. (Hebrews 11:24-26)
2. **Ezra “Set His Heart**”… what does that mean?
	1. ***“Set”*** : to establish or **prepare**. To **make ready** and certain.
	2. “…Connotes being **firmly established**, being **firmly anchored** and **being firm**…so as to be **unchanging and unchangeable**.” (Vine)
	3. 3 **key concepts**: **preparation**, **firmness** and **focus**.
	4. **Evidence of a heart that is *“set”:***
		1. **Spiritual growth & maturity**. (Ephesians 4:13-14)
		2. **Stability & consistency**. (2 Chron. 27:6; Colossians 2:5-7)
		3. **Ready to defend**. (1 Peter 3:15; 2 Timothy 2:15)
		4. **Knows the way of escape**. (1 Corinthians 10:12-13)
		5. **Undistracted**. (2 Timothy 2:4; 1 Corinthians 7:35)
	5. **Evidence of a heart that’s not *“set”*:**
		1. **Anxiety & worry** - (Matthew 6:25, 33-34)
		2. **“Crowded”.** (Mark 4:19)
		3. **Not paying attention**. (Matthew 22:5; Nehemiah 9:34)
		4. **Inconsistency**. (Daniel 6:20; Philippians 2:12)
		5. **Unprepared**. (2 Chronicles 12:14; cf., vs. 1)
	6. **Examples of “hearts that were set”**
		1. **Joseph:** (Genesis 39:9; 42:18; 50:19-20)
		2. **David**: (Psalms 57:7; 112:6-7; 1 Chronicles 22:18-19)
		3. **Daniel**: (Daniel 1:8; 6:20; cf., Acts 11:23)
		4. **Paul**: (Philippians 3:12-14)
		5. **Jesus**: (Isaiah 50:7; Luke 9:51)
3. **A Heart Set To Do What**?
	1. ***“To Study The Law of the Lord”***
		1. **Because of what the Bible is** (1 Thessalonians 2:13) and **what it does**(Isaiah 55:10-11; cf., 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
		2. **God revealed what we need to know** (Deut. 29:29; cf., 1 Cor. 2:10-13), **and can understand** (Ephesians 3:3-5; and **which endures through all times**. (Jude 3)
		3. “**Have to”** OR “**love to”**? (Psalms 119:47; Malachi 1:13)
		4. **How often?** (Acts 17:11; 1 Timothy 4:6)
	2. ***“To Practice It…”***
		1. **A mindset** of seeking God’s word for **what I need to do (or refrain from) doing…** not just academic**.** (i.e., 2 Timothy 4:9-18)
		2. **Acting upon what we’ve studied.** (Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:22-25)
		3. **It’s how faith grows.** (Luke 17:5-10)
		4. **Allowing God to work in us through His word** (Hebrews 13:20-21; Philippians 2:13) making us **“useful to the Master”**. (2 Timothy 2:21)
		5. **Understanding what to flee from and what to pursue**. (1 Timothy 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22)
		6. **What to say, do and think**. (Proverbs 25:11; Colossians 4:6; Philippians 4:8)
	3. ***“To Teach It…”***
		1. **All are to be teachers…** (Hebrews 5:12; Acts 8:4; Eph. 4:12)
		2. **Souls cannot be saved without it.** (Romans 10:10-17)
		3. Sharing the ***“good news”*** (2 Kings 7:9) of:
			1. **Salvation** (Romans 1:16; Ephesians 1:13)
			2. **Hope** (1 Peter 3:15; Colossians 1:5; Hebrews 6:19)
			3. **Sustaining spiritual nourishment** (1 Timothy 4:6)
		4. **Correct those who oppose** (2 Timothy 2:24-26)
		5. **How?**
			1. **In its’ entirety** (Acts 20:20, 27; Jeremiah 26:2) & **purity**. (Galatians 1:6-9; Titus 2:7; 1 Peter 2:2)
			2. **In love and humility** (Ephesians 4:15; Acts 20:19; 2 Tim. 2:24-25) yet **authoritatively** (2 Timothy 1:13)
			3. **Relying on God and not ourselves!** (2 Corinthians 3:4-6)
		6. **When? “*Preach the word; be ready in season and out of season…*”** (2 Timothy 4:2)

Ezra set his heart to…

When these come together, growth takes place and souls are saved.