



Key References:

Zechariah 4:1–10 (ESV)

4 And the angel who talked with me came again and woke me, like a man who is awakened out of his sleep. ² And he said to me, “What do you see?” I said, “I see, and behold, a lampstand all of gold, with a bowl on the top of it, and seven lamps on it, with seven lips on each of the lamps that are on the top of it. ³ And there are two olive trees by it, one on the right of the bowl and the other on its left.” ⁴ And I said to the angel who talked with me, “What are these, my lord?” ⁵ Then the angel who talked with me answered and said to me, “Do you not know what these are?” I said, “No, my lord.” ⁶ Then he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD of hosts. ⁷ Who are you, O great mountain? Before Zerubbabel you shall become a plain. And he shall bring forward the top stone amid shouts of ‘Grace, grace to it!’ ” ⁸ Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ⁹ “The hands of Zerubbabel have laid the foundation of this house; his hands shall also complete it. Then you will know that the LORD of hosts has sent me to you. ¹⁰ For whoever has despised the day of small things shall rejoice, and shall see the plumb line in the hand of Zerubbabel. “These seven are the eyes of the LORD, which range through the whole earth.”

Hebrews 12:1–3 (ESV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ² looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

When you think back over your life, what stands out to you as your most important accomplishment?

What would you say was your deepest time of discouragement?

The prophet Zechariah lived during the time of the return to the land, the restoration of Jerusalem, and the rebuilding of the second temple. From your understanding of this time in history, what would have been some of the obstacles standing in the way of God's people?

In the midst of all these obstacles the governor (Zerubbabel) was charged with rebuilding the temple. How would the prophecy recorded in Zechariah 4:1-10 have been an encouragement?

Can you think of a time of difficulty in your life where you received a prophetic encouragement from God? What effect did those words have on you?

Has discouragement ever hindered you from moving ahead with God's plans for your life?

When you reflect on your walk with God, how have you learned to deal with discouragement?

Read together Zechariah 8:9-13. Describe the relationship here between divine activity and human activity.

Some Christians say "Work like everything depends on you." Others gravitate more towards "Let go and let God." Are these two approaches mutually exclusive?

In Zechariah 4:6 God says: “This is the word of the Lord to Zerubbabel: Not by might, nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.” How can you tell when you have moved away from depending on God's Spirit and into trying to make things happen by your own might and power?

On Sunday Mike cautioned us to be careful not to fight the wrong battles. Can you give an example of this mistake in your life?

Read together Hebrews 12:1-3. As our church moves into the transition from cruise ship to battleship how will this scripture be helpful to us?

Can you share one "weight" (Hebrews 12:1) in your life that you would like to be free of?