

The Process Doesn't Always Look Like Progress

Sermon Outline: Sunday, April 21st, 2024

Read

Ezra 5 & 6

I. Attack Can Lead to Apathy (Ezra 5:1-5)

A. Opposition leading to stoppage, resulting in...

Ezra 4:4-5,24

B. God's people lose drive and commitment

Haggai 1:2-7

C. Haggai and Zechariah awaken God's people

Ezra 5:1, Haggai 1:1, 8, and 12

Apply — *Who has both position & permission to call me out?*

II. God Honors Integrity and Excellence (Ezra 6:8-12)

A. God's work in restraining our enemies

Ezra 5:3-5

B. God's work in giving us humble hearts

Ezra 5:11-12

C. God's work in visible ways (miraculous)

Ezra 6:8-12

Apply — *How can my integrity and excellence create a climate where God is viewed favorably?*

III. Celebrating Progress After Seasons of Stillness (Ezra

6:13-22)

- A. God's enemies supply what they sought to suppress (verses 9, 17, 22)
- B. Progress should be celebrated

Apply — *Have I seen/celebrated God's fruit for what it is?*