

Poetic Justice

When have you had to deal with someone who was acting fake?

Read Ezra 4:1-6:22.

1. Why did God's people refuse local help for building the temple?
 - A. They were fake.
 - B. They were too much alike.
 - C. They offered only partial support.
 - D. It was just too free and free things aren't good.
 - E. King Cyrus gave the command for the exiles only in Ezra 4:3.
 - F. Bad people always start out good, but switch.
 - G. They were enemies.
 - H. Their worship was not what the exiles liked.
 - I. They knew the volunteers wanted to frustrate their plans and progress.
 - J. Other.

2. Why did the adversaries write letters to King Artaxerxes? (Ezra 4:6-7)
 - A. To ask for some money.
 - B. To share words of commendation.
 - C. To get the king involved in stopping the work on the temple.
 - D. To offer the king an opportunity to reel in a people in rebellion.
 - E. To remind the king the exiles were just like their ancestors.
 - F. To share that this rebel group would sow negativity in the kingdom.
 - G. To tell everyone that the king was a control freak.
 - H. To have dinner with him.
 - I. Other.

3. What made the Persian king's decree the final word? (Ezra 4:16-22)
 - A. It was the custom of the day.
 - B. No one dared to challenge the authority of the king.
 - C. This king was a bully.
 - D. The king wanted to keep a tight leash on this group.
 - E. The king wanted total allegiance from all the people of the empire.
 - F. Rehum and his crew wanted to show that they had the ear of the king.
 - G. This king was known to offer bribes to make laws easy to follow.
 - H. The king put a stamp on the foreheads of all the obedient people.
 - I. Other.

4. King Artaxerxes' decree to stop the work (Ezra 4:23-24) resulted in:
 - A. Stopping the work.
 - B. Making the exiles more defiant.
 - C. Giving Rehum and Shimshai the liberty to do what they wanted.
 - D. Causing everyone in the empire to look at the exiles as a spectacle.
 - E. The king looking like a wimp by sending others to do his dirty work.
 - F. Making an example of anyone who would dare to challenge the king.
 - G. Other.

5. How did the Jews respond to the prophecies of Haggai and Zechariah?
 - A. The Jews ignored these prophecies.
 - B. The people were energized and got up to rebuild God's house.
 - C. There was so much anger at God, they continued to fail.
 - D. Everyone confessed their sins and sat weeping.
 - E. The people got up to build with the prophets helping them.
 - F. Tattenai (Ezra 5:3) snitched on them to King Darius.
 - G. Tattenai's letter to the king backfired on him. (Ezra 5:17)
 - H. Other.

6. What was the result of the second inquiry sent to the king? (Ezra 6:1-12)
 - A. The people of Judah and Benjamin began to rebuild the temple.
 - B. Rejoicing from Tattenai because he was vindicated.
 - C. Darius gave the exiles even more benefits.
 - D. Darius ordered that heads should roll if the decree was challenged.
 - E. The exiles finished the temple and there was great rejoicing.
 - F. Darius gave permission to build, but not the resources to pay for it.
 - G. God zapped the people who opposed the exiles.
 - H. Other.

7. God sparked action using Haggai and Zechariah. Could God use you to do the same today?

8. The Passover Feast recorded in Ezra 6:21, 22 included non-Jews. What do the people of your church do to include people from the community?