

NEHEMIAH

“Chapter 8: Desiring and Living Out God’s Words”

May 1, 2016

GOD’S WORD DESIRED (8:1-8)

All the people came together as one in the square before the Water Gate. They told Ezra the teacher of the Law to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had commanded for Israel. So on the first day of the seventh month Ezra the priest brought the Law before the assembly, which was made up of men and women and all who were able to understand. He read it aloud from daybreak till noon, and all the people listened attentively to the Book of the Law. Ezra the teacher of the Law stood on a high wooden platform built for the occasion. Beside him on his right stood 6 guys with really long names; and on his left were 7 guys with really long names. Ezra opened the book... and as he opened it, the people all stood up.

Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, “Amen! Amen!” Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. The Levites, 13 other guys with really long names, instructed the people in the Law while the people were standing there. They read from the Book of the Law of God, making it clear and giving the meaning so that the people understood what was being read. Nehemiah 8:1-8

As all the people gather (showing _____), everybody stands up as Ezra opens God’s Word (showing _____); they listen attentively (showing _____); they “Lift their hands in praise” (showing _____), and say “Amen” (showing _____); and they “Bow down in worship” (showing _____).

*How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!
Psalm 119:103*

*The law of the Lord is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the Lord are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the Lord are radiant, giving light to the eyes.
Psalm 19:7-8*

Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ Matthew 4:4

All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. 2 Timothy 3:16-17

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GOD'S WORD TAKEN TO HEART AND LIVED OUT (8:9-12)

Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and teacher of the Law, and the Levites who were instructing the people said to them all, "This day is holy to the Lord your God. Do not mourn or weep." For all the people had been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law. Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength." The Levites calmed all the people, saying, "Be still, for this is a holy day. Do not grieve." Then all the people went away to eat and drink, to send portions of food and to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them. Nehemiah 8:9-12

God's Word is for us like the "mirror on the wall": it tells the truth about who _____ really are; and it does so in conjunction with telling us who _____ is.

For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Hebrews 4:12

While hearing truth, they also heard grace – words of _____ amidst the reality of loss.

But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. Romans 3:21-25

"7 MINUTES WITH GOD"

30 Seconds: Prepare Your Heart (Psalm 143:8)

Set your thoughts on Him, thanking Him for the night, committing the new day to Him.

4 Minutes: Read the Bible (let God talk to you). (Psalm 119:18)

Pick a book of the Bible.

Read consecutively.

Write down some observations, connections, and implications.

2 ½ Minutes: Pray (you talk to God)

Adoration: Praise God for who He is. (1 Chronicles 29:11)

Confession: Admit and turn from your sin. (1 John 1:9)

Thanksgiving: Recognize that God gives us every good thing. (Ephesians 5:20)

Supplication: Ask God for what it is you desire. (Philippians 4:6-7)

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