

"BIRTHING AN APPETITE WITH TRAGEDY"

Nehemiah 8

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. The tragic consequences of sin: "Sin will take you farther than you intended to go; it will keep you longer than you intended to stay; and cost you more than you intended to pay."
 - 1. Two sins that trigger tragedy: (*Rom. 1:18, 21*)
 - a. Ungodliness – "leaving God out of your thinking":
 - b. Unrighteousness – "sinful acts":
 - 2. The threefold tragedy:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- B. The painful trip back to a fork in the road: (*Nehemiah 7*)
 - 1.
 - 2.
- C. The common ingredient of any revival:
 - 1. Two revivals to examine - Hezekiah (*II Chron. 29-31*) and Josiah: (*II Chron. 34*)
 - 2. The common ingredient in both: v. 1 (*Heb. 4:12*)
- D. Locating the qualified messenger and finding a willing congregation:
 - 1. The messenger: (*Ezra 7:6, 9-10*)
 - 2. The willing congregation:
 - 3. The "water gate", the appropriate location: (*Jn. 15:3; 7:37-39; Eph. 5:26*)

II. THE RAPID RESPONSE TO THE WORD OF GOD:

- A. Understanding the Word of God with your mind: v. 1-8
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
- B. Rejoicing in the Word of God in your heart: vv. 9-12
 - 1. The important sequence:
 - a. Conviction – "Feast of Trumpets"
 - b. Cleansing – "Day of Atonement"
 - c. Celebration – "Feast of Tabernacles"
 - 2. The secret of true Christian joy: (See back)
- C. Obeying the Word of God with your will: vv. 13-18
 - 1. Understanding the Feast of Tabernacles:
 - 2. Ezra's 7-day Bible conference:

III. PRINCIPLES TO PERSONALLY APPLY:

(Together becoming "people of the Word" in principle AND in practice)

- A.
- B.
- C.

JOY - "UNSPEAKABLE" (1 Pet. 1:8)

"Christianity is the most encouraging, the most joyous, the least repressive of all the religions of mankind. While it has its sorrows and stern disciplines, the end of it is a resurrection, not a burial – a festival, not a funeral." *L.P. Jacks*

"Wondrous is the strength of joy and its power of endurance. The joyful man will do more in the same time, will do it better, and will persevere in it longer, than the sad or sullen." *Thomas Carlyle*

"Joy is not the absence of trouble but the presence of Christ." *William Vander Haven*

"We have learned that joy is more than a sense of the cosmic, more than earthly pleasure, and to a believer even more than what we call happiness. Joy is the enjoyment of God and the good things that come from the hand of God." *Sherwood Wirt*

We are chosen for joy. However hard the Christian way, it is both in the traveling and in the goal, the way of joy. There is always a joy in doing the right thing. When we evade some duty or some task, when at last we set our hand to it, joy comes to us. The Christian is the man of joy. A gloomy Christian is a contradiction of terms, and nothing in all religious history has done Christianity more harm than its connection with long faces." *William Barclay*

"The religion that makes a man look sick certainly won't cure the world." *Phillip Brooks*

"Joy is the gigantic secret of the Christian." *G.K. Chesterton*

"Joy is not a luxury or a mere accessory in the Christian life. It is the sign that we are really living in God's wonderful love, and that love satisfies." *Andrew Murray*

"Joy is the surest sign of the presence of God. The bottom line for you and me is simply this: grimness is not a Christian virtue. If God really is the center of one's life and being, joy is inevitable. If we have no joy, we have missed the heart of the Good News and our bodies as much as our souls will suffer the consequences." *Bruce Larson*

"Joy is the flag that flies over the castle of our hearts announcing that the King is in residence today." *Walter Knight*

"Joy is a winsome magnet that draws people in because it is the one thing they do not have." *C. Swindoll*

MY WORSHIP "EXAM"

Worship – (proskuneo) – "to kiss toward" conveying the idea of showing reverence or surrendering obeisance. It is a subjective feeling of awe, reverent humility, and respect as well as an objective activity of bowing, praising, prioritizing, and serving in prompt obedience. It is defined simply in Isaiah 46:6b as "they fall down, yea, they worship". It very rarely in Scripture (less than 20%) has anything to do with music evidenced by a journey through any Bible concordance. The religious community again has chosen to redefine a Biblical term to make it less convicting and more palatable to our "Christian" culture.

"Worship is actively expressing with our heart, honor and worth to God with a humble attitude of reverential awe that is practically demonstrated in our actions when we allow God to control all that we are, all that we have, and every aspect of our future, on a daily basis. What we worship and how we worship will dictate who we are and why we do what we do." *W. Wiersbe*

"True worship examines us deeply; our motives and our values are scrutinized by God. In worship, God is calling us to wholeness. But first He must reveal our brokenness and blemishes. He is calling us to spiritual health, but first He must expose our wounds, bruises, and putrefying sores, and we cannot ask for a second opinion." *W. Wiersbe*

SINNERS PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father, I was made by you and I was made for you, but I have been living for myself. I am sorry for that self-rule you call sin. I believe that Jesus Christ being my creator God, died, was buried, and rose again to pay the insurmountable debt that my sin has created since birth. So right now, I am turning from a life of going my own way, to by faith, place my trust in Jesus Christ, to pay the debt of all my sin, and to get me to heaven, when I breath my last breath. Lord Jesus, from today on, I am yours. Thanks for saving me, this very moment, in Jesus name, amen.