



Pastor Derrick Shields “Nehemiah: The Elements Of A Revival” 1/23/2022

Key Verses:

- Nehemiah 7-8

Key Thoughts:

- “The idea of revival originates in the reality that on the one hand, God is the decisive giver of all spiritual life and, on the other hand, humans, even those who are born again and part of God’s covenant family, from time-to-time drift into a kind of lifelessness and lethargy and backsliding and indifference and weakness. And when you put those two together – God as the giver of life and man as ever drifting towards lifelessness – what you get is the need for the hope of reviving, coming back to life – a fresh outpouring of God’s life-giving Spirit on his people. That is what revival is.” -John Piper
- What Nehemiah found when he returned to Judah was a culture of shame that had become pervasive among his people. When shame roots itself in our life, we withdraw from others, bow our heads in shame and God wants to lift the head of his children.
- In Chapter 7, we learn to: continue to be on guard (v.1-3), call the people back to the city (v.4-65), give sacrificially to the need (v.4-65), settle in the city (v.73)

The Elements of a Revival:

1. Reverence and hunger for the Word of God (Nehemiah 7:73b-8:5)
 - All Ezra did was open the scroll and the people stood up. They spent from daybreak until noon listening to the Torah, probably about 5 hours.
 - Pray that the Lord would give you an appetite for his Word. We develop an appetite for the Word by reading it and as we read it, it begins to read us.
2. Praise and Worship the Lord (Nehemiah 8:6)
 - In this verse, we see thousands of people lift their hands, then bow down and worship with their faces to the ground.
3. Commit to understand the Word of God (Nehemiah 8:7)
 - The Levites made sure that people understood what was being read.
 - It’s important for us to, not only, hear the Word but to do the work to understand.
 - *Psalms 119:105-106*
4. Apply the Word to your life (Nehemiah 8:9)
 - They responded by weeping because the Word had become real for them. When the Word begins to stir up something in you, that’s the beginning of revival.
 - *Hebrews 4:12-13*
5. Share the Word with others (Nehemiah 8:13-15)
 - Their response to the Word was to spread the word throughout the towns and Jerusalem.
6. Obey the Word (Nehemiah 8:16-17)
 - The people went out and brought back branches, exactly as they were told.
 - When God does a revival work in us, our joy is very great.
 - *James 1:22-25*



Discussion Questions:

- What effect do shame have on you personally?
- What does revival mean to you?
- What is your current relationship with God's word?
- Which of the six elements of a revival do you need to focus on most in this season of your life?