

“Progress Through Preaching”

Nehemiah 8

There was a huge revival in Nehemiah’s day caused by the powerful preaching and teaching of God’s Word. We need to keep God’s word at the center of our service faithfully teaching the truth of scripture.

Revival: “The Spirit of God working through the Word of God, in the lives of the people of God.” – J Edwin Orr

1. THEY WANTED THE WORD (NEHEMIAH 8:1-3)

A. The people wanted good Bible teaching, and not just an emotional message. They asked for it (content), they stayed for it (time), they listened to it (attention).

- i. *2 Timothy 4:3–4³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.*

2. THEY HAD A HEART OF WORSHIP (NEHEMIAH 8:4-6)

A. God’s word is more than just understanding truth intellectually, it should be an attitude of worship to Jesus.

- i. *John 5:38–39³⁸ But you do not have His word abiding in you, because whom He sent, Him you do not believe. ³⁹ You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.*
- ii. *John 4:24²⁴ God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”*
- iii. *Psalms 138:2² I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.*

3. THEY UNDERSTOOD THE SCRIPTURES (NEHEMIAH 8:7-8)

A. This is the most important thing: for people to understand what God has said.

- i. “Understanding needs to be the first goal of any preacher or teacher. When I stand to teach God’s people, there are some things that I always need to remember:· If you leave knowing five helpful hints to a better life, but do not have a greater understanding of God’s Word, I have failed.· If you leave having been amused by humor,

entertained by anecdotes, or captivated by dramatic stories, but do not have a greater understanding of God's Word, I have failed. · If you leave motivated to action, or praying a prayer, but it is not based on a greater understanding of God's Word, I have failed. · If you leave admiring me, but do not have a greater understanding of God's Word, I have failed - and will be accountable before God for my failure." - Guzik

4. THEY RESPONDED TO THE MESSAGE (NEHEMIAH 8:9-18)

A. An emotional response – There should be an emotional connection to God's word.

- i. *2 Corinthians 7:10¹⁰ For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.*
- ii. "It is as wrong to mourn when God has forgiven us as it is to rejoice when sin has conquered us" - WW

B. A joyful response – Don't miss the value of Godly joy and freedom. Holiness is not all about being sad and serious.

- i. *Ecclesiastes 3:12–13¹² I know that nothing is better for them than to rejoice, and to do good in their lives, ¹³ and also that every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor—it is the gift of God.*
- ii. *1 Timothy 6:17¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present age not to be haughty, nor to trust in uncertain riches but in the living God, who gives us richly all things to enjoy.*
- iii. *Psalms 16:11¹¹ You will show me the path of life; In Your presence is fullness of joy; At Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

C. An obedient response - They practically applied the commands. (Verses 13-18)

- i. *James 1:22²² But don't just listen to God's word. You must do what it says. Otherwise, you are only fooling yourselves.*
- ii. *Luke 6:47–48⁴⁷ Whoever comes to Me, and hears My sayings and does them, I will show you whom he is like: ⁴⁸ He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock.*