

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Renewed by the Word of God

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
June 14, 2020



What will it take to see spiritual renewal in our lives, our church, and our world?

- **Spiritual renewal requires a love for God and His Word.**

Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6 In October, when the Israelites had settled in their towns, all the people assembled with a unified purpose at the square just inside the Water Gate. They asked Ezra the scribe to bring out the Book of the Law of Moses, which the Lord had given for Israel to obey. ² So on October 8 Ezra the priest brought the Book of the Law before the assembly, which included the men and women and all the children old enough to understand. ³ He faced the square just inside the Water Gate from early morning until noon and read aloud to everyone who could understand. All the people listened closely to the Book of the Law...⁵ Ezra stood on the platform in full view of all the people. When they saw him open the book, they all rose to their feet. ⁶ Then Ezra praised the Lord, the great God, and all the people chanted, "Amen! Amen!" as they lifted their hands. Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground.

- **Spiritual renewal requires a learning and teaching posture.**

Nehemiah 8:7-8 The Levites...then instructed the people in the Law while everyone remained in their places. ⁸ They read from the Book of the Law of God and clearly explained the meaning of what was being read, helping the people understand each passage.

Matthew 28:19 (NLT) "Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."

- **Spiritual renewal requires a humble and contrite heart.**

Nehemiah 8:9 (NLT) Then Nehemiah the governor, Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who were interpreting for the people said to them, "Don't mourn or weep on such a day as this! For today is a sacred day before the Lord your God." For the people had all been weeping as they listened to the words of the Law.

Nehemiah 9:2-3 (NLT) "...they confessed their own sins and the sins of their ancestors. ³ They remained standing in place for three hours while the Book of the Law of the Lord their God was read aloud to them. Then for three more hours they confessed their sins and worshiped the Lord their God.

Nehemiah 8:10-11 (NLT) And Nehemiah continued, "Go and celebrate with a feast of rich foods and sweet drinks, and share gifts of food with people who have nothing prepared. This is a sacred day before our Lord. Don't be dejected and sad, for the joy of the Lord is your strength!" ¹¹ And the Levites, too, quieted the people, telling them, "Hush! Don't weep! For this is a sacred day." ¹² So the people went away to eat and drink at a festive meal, to share gifts of food, and to celebrate with great joy because they had heard God's words and understood them.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 (NLT) "Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean. Your filth will be washed away, and you will no longer worship idols. ²⁶ And I will give you a new heart, and I will put a new spirit in you. I will take out your stony, stubborn heart and give you a tender, responsive heart. ²⁷ And I will put my Spirit in you so that you will follow my decrees and be careful to obey my regulations.

- **Spiritual renewal requires Spirit-led obedience.**

Nehemiah 8:13-14, ¹⁶ On October 9 the family leaders of all the people, together with the priests and Levites, met with Ezra the scribe to go over the Law in greater detail. ¹⁴ As they studied the Law, they discovered that the Lord had commanded through Moses that the Israelites should live in shelters during the festival to be held that month...¹⁶ So the people went out and cut branches and used them to build shelters on the roofs of their houses... and they were all filled with great joy!

Big Idea: Place your trust in Jesus Christ & experience the grace of spiritual renewal.



**Sequoia Impact Communities are where we
live out our identity as a
Family of Servants on Mission.**

To get plugged in email:

impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

**Renewed by the Word of God
#5 of 6 - June 14, 2020**

1) Take some time to discuss how your IC has been and will live out the Kingdom of Jesus together.

- In what ways have we been living like family recently? How will we live out our family identity in the coming week?
- How have we lived as servants to one another or to our world this past week? What needs or opportunities to serve is God asking us to lean into?
- How have we lived on mission where we live, work, play, or went this past week? Who do we know that needs to hear the good news of Jesus?

2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?

3) Read Nehemiah 8:1-6. Describe the scene in your own words. Have you ever had an experience where you really sensed God's presence through His Word? What was that like for you?

4) Read Nehemiah 8:7-8 and Matthew 28:19. What does it look like to have a learning posture as a disciple of Jesus? Who is God asking you to "teach" and build into in these days? What steps will you take to grow as a learner and a teacher?

5) Read Nehemiah 8:9 and Nehemiah 9:2-3. How do the people respond to the reading of God's Word? What role does confession play in your life? Take some time to prayerfully reflect and ask the Holy Spirit to show you anything in your life that is not pleasing to God. Confess this to God and receive His grace.

6) How does Nehemiah 8:10-11 and Ezekiel 36:25-27 reveal the grace of God to us? What does "The joy of the Lord is your strength" mean to you? How does this encourage you?

7) Read Nehemiah 8:13-16. What did obedience look like for the Israelites? What does obedience look like for you today? What action step is God asking you to take today?



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