

Reflections on the Old; Rejoicing in the New

Nehemiah 8:1-12

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Nehemiah 8:9-12 [Legacy Standard Bible]

⁹Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites, who provided the people with understanding, said to all the people, "This day is holy to Yahweh your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.

¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of Yahweh is your strength."

¹¹So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved."

¹²Then all the people went away to eat, to drink, to send portions, and to celebrate with great gladness, because they understood the words which had been made known to them.

Philippians 3:13-15 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹³Brothers, I do not consider myself as having laid hold of it yet, but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead,

¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵Let us therefore, as many as are perfect, think this way; and if in anything you think differently, God will reveal that also to you.

Nehemiah 8:1 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they said to Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which Yahweh had commanded to Israel.

Nehemiah 8:1-3 [Legacy Standard Bible]

¹And all the people gathered as one man at the square which was in front of the Water Gate, and they said to Ezra the scribe to bring the book of the law of Moses which Yahweh had commanded to Israel.

²Then Ezra the priest brought the law before the assembly of men, women, and all who could understand when listening, on the first day of the seventh month.

³And he read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the ears of the people were attentive to the book of the law.

Sermon Outline (Nehemiah 8:1-12)

REVIVAL always...

- I. ... begins with the Word (vv.3-8)
- II. ... is evidenced by repentance (vv.9-11)
- III. ... results in joy fueled strength (vv.10-12)

Nehemiah 8:3-5 [Legacy Standard Bible]

³And he read from it before the square which was in front of the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of men and women, those who could understand; and all the ears of the people were attentive to the book of the law.

⁴Ezra the scribe stood on a wooden podium which they had made for the purpose. And beside him stood Mattithiah, Shema, Anaiah, Uriah, Hilkiah, and Maaseiah on his right hand; and Pedaiah, Mishael, Malchijah, Hashum, Hashbaddanah, Zechariah, and Meshullam on his left hand.

⁵And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people for he was above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up.

Nehemiah 8:6-8 [Legacy Standard Bible]

⁶Then Ezra blessed Yahweh the great God. And all the people answered, "Amen, Amen!" while lifting up their hands; then they bowed low and worshiped Yahweh with their faces to the ground.

⁷Also Jeshua, Bani, Sherebiah, Jamin, Akkub, Shabbethai, Hodiah, Maaseiah, Kelita, Azariah, Jozabad, Hanan, Pelaiah, the Levites, were providing understanding of the law to the people while the people stood in their place.

⁸They read from the book, from the law of God, explaining and giving insight, and they provided understanding of the reading.

I. Revival always begins with the Word (vv.3-8)

1 John 4:19 (LSB)

¹⁹We love, because He first loved us.

Romans 10:13-14,17 (LSB)

¹³for "WHOEVER CALLS ON THE NAME OF THE LORD WILL BE SAVED."

¹⁴How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed?
How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how
will they hear without a preacher?

¹⁷So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.

II. Revival always is evidenced by repentance (vv.9-11)

Nehemiah 8:9–11 (LSB)

⁹Then Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites, who provided the people with understanding, said to all the people, "This day is holy to Yahweh your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people were weeping when they heard the words of the law.

¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of Yahweh is your strength."

¹¹So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved."

II. Revival always is evidenced by repentance (vv.9-11)

2 Corinthians 7:10 (LSB)

¹⁰For godly sorrow produces a repentance without regret, leading to salvation, but the sorrow of the world brings about death.

II. Revival always is evidenced by repentance (vv.9-11)

2 Timothy 3:3–5 (LSB)

³unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, without gentleness, without love for good,

⁴treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

⁵holding to a form of godliness, but having denied its power.

Keep away from such men as these.

II. Revival always is evidenced by repentance (vv.9-11)

James 1:21–25 (LSB)

²¹Therefore, laying aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in gentleness receive the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

²²But become doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves.

²³For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks at his natural face in a mirror;

²⁴for once he looked at himself and has gone away, he immediately forgot what kind of person he was.

²⁵But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of freedom, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this man will be blessed in what he does.

III. Revival always results in joy-fueled strength (vv.10-12)

¹⁰Then he said to them, "Go, eat of the fat, drink of the sweet, and send portions to him who has nothing prepared; for this day is holy to our Lord. Do not be grieved, for the joy of Yahweh is your strength."

¹¹So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved."

¹²Then all the people went away to eat, to drink, to send portions, and to celebrate with great gladness, because they understood the words which had been made known to them.

III. Revival always results in joy-fueled strength (vv.10-12)

Adrian Rogers (1931-2005)

"Salvation is not a reward for the righteous; it is a gift for the guilty"

III. Revival always results in joy-fueled strength (vv.10-12)

Dr. Martyn Lloyd Jones (1899-1981)

“When you and I arrive in heaven, my dear friends, we’ll realize that we’re there not because we held on when others gave up, but because He held on to us.”

III. Revival always results in joy-fueled strength (vv.10-12)

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¹¹So the Levites quieted all the people, saying, "**Be still, for the day is holy; do not be grieved.**"

¹²Then all the people went away to eat, to drink, to send portions, and to celebrate with great gladness, because they understood the words which had been made known to them.

III. Revival always results in joy-fueled strength (vv.10-12)

John 3:30 (LSB)

³⁰“He must increase, but I must decrease.

Nehemiah 8:9-12 [Legacy Standard Bible]

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