



Our Focus – Nehemiah 8-10

Nehemiah isn't about rebuilding a broken-down *wall*, but rebuilding a broken-down *people*.

When God's Word is elevated as the highest authority in our lives...

1. It spurs us to _____ (Nehemiah 8:1-6 & 9:5-37)

*"Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people **lifted their hands** and responded, 'Amen! Amen!' Then they **bowed down** and **worshipped** the Lord with their faces to the ground...
'Stand up and praise the LORD your God.'
Nehemiah 8:6 & 9:5*

2. It spurs us to _____ (Nehemiah 8:13-18)

*"So the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves temporary shelters...
And **their joy was very great**.
Nehemiah 8:16-17*

3. It spurs us to _____ (Nehemiah 9:1-37)

*"They stood where they were and... spent another quarter [of the day] in **confession** and in worshipping the Lord their God."
Nehemiah 9:1-3*

*"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent,' he willed **the entire life of believers to be one of repentance**."
Martin Luther*

4. It spurs us to _____ (Nehemiah 9:38 & 10:32-39)

*"We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to **give**... for the service of the house of our God... And **we will bring a tithe** of our crops...
We will not neglect the house of our God."
Nehemiah 10:32, 37 & 39*

Our focus must always be formation in Christ's likeness with God's Word as our highest authority.

Build Up to Reach Out: Our Focus

Questions based on sermon on April 28, 2024

Getting to Know Me

1. What is the biggest makeover or remodel project you have completed? How did it turn out?

Digging Deeper

2. What hit home for you most in Pastor Phil's sermon this Sunday?
3. We learned on Sunday that elevating God's Word as the ultimate authority in our life will spur us to *worship, obedience, confession, and generosity*. Which most resonated with your heart? Which one brought some conviction or internal struggle?
4. Read Nehemiah 8:5-8. As you read this passage, pay attention to the posture of the people and their response of *worship*. What is the relationship between the Word of God and worship of God?
5. Read Nehemiah 8:9-10. What do you think moved them to such a sorrowful expression and how did Nehemiah coach their response? Describe a time when hearing or reading God's Word truly moved or impacted you.
6. Read Nehemiah 9:1-3. How do we ensure that we are elevating God's Word and bringing our life in line with the ultimate authority of God's Word? What role does *confession* have in elevating God's Word?
7. After hearing God's Word, hearts were stirred as the people demonstrated their generosity and took responsibility to bring their best to the house of God. Read Nehemiah 10:32-39 and underline every time you see the word 'bring.' What kinds of gifts did the people bring to God?

Making it Personal

8. In what ways are we tempted to bring scripture down to align with our lives rather than elevating our lives to align with the authority of God's Word?
9. Take time to slowly read Nehemiah 9:5b-37 with your group (beginning with "*Blessed be your glorious name...*"). This is the longest prayer in the Bible and full of rich redemption history. As you go, write down the attributes of God you encounter. What do you learn about God's character? How does this impact you?

Build Up and Reach Out

10. Next Sunday, we will celebrate our Commitment Sunday together as a church by bringing before God our commitments of overflowing generosity to personally engage in the *Build Up and Reach Out* campaign. How is God working in your heart as you consider what you'll give?
11. Nehemiah 8-10 reminds us that *our focus is not on finances or facilities, but on being formed in the likeness of Christ* as we elevate God's Word in our lives. Pray and seek the Spirit's direction on how God would have you engage in this project. Write out your *prayer* to God to seek his will.

Prayer

Praise be to God our Father. We thank you for your faithfulness through all generations. We long to be a people who keep our focus on Jesus and grow more and more into his likeness. We rejoice in the growth we have seen and look forward to seeing more grow deeper in their relationship with Jesus as you expand your church. Help us to have generous hearts and keep our commitments to you. We pray for an overwhelming response on commitment Sunday so that many will be reached through your ministry here. Continue to surprise us each week as you work in the hearts of the people. Amen.

We exist to glorify God by guiding people into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ.



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Nehemiah isn't about rebuilding a broken-down *wall*, but rebuilding a broken-down *people*.

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1. It spurs us to Worship (Nehemiah 8:1-6 & 9:5-37)

"Ezra praised the Lord, the great God; and all the people lifted their hands and responded, 'Amen! Amen!' Then they bowed down and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground... 'Stand up and praise the LORD your God.'"
Nehemiah 8:6 & 9:5

2. It spurs us to Obedience (Nehemiah 8:13-18)

"So the people went out and brought back branches and built themselves temporary shelters... And their joy was very great."
Nehemiah 8:16-17

3. It spurs us to Confession (Nehemiah 9:1-37)

"They stood where they were and... spent another quarter [of the day] in confession and in worshipping the Lord their God."
Nehemiah 9:1-3

"When our Lord and Master Jesus Christ said, 'Repent,' he willed the entire life of believers to be one of repentance."
Martin Luther

4. It spurs us to Generosity (Nehemiah 9:38 & 10:32-39)

"We assume the responsibility for carrying out the commands to give... for the service of the house of our God... And we will bring a tithe of our crops... We will not neglect the house of our God."
Nehemiah 10:32, 37 & 39

Our focus must always be formation in Christ's likeness with God's Word as our highest authority.