

Real Renewal

Nehemiah 8

For real renewal, the Word of God must be central!

1. Proclaim the Word (v1-6)
2. Explain the Word (v7-12)
3. Study the Word (v13)
4. Obey the Word (v14-17)
5. Feast on the Word (v18)

FOR FURTHER THOUGHT:

1. What things have you done in the past that have been most effective in terms of taking in the Word of God? What are you doing now?
2. Look over the chapter and answer this question: How much preparation went into this day centering on the Word of God? List as many aspects of preparation as you can from looking through the passage. How much preparation do you put into your own personal devotions? to your Growth Group study? to coming on Sunday morning?
3. Look at the response of the people to Ezra's holding up the Word of God (v5-6). How can we show reverence for the Word of God? What does "Amen" mean? Did they say it before or after they heard the Word? (Any implication there?)
4. What was the role of the Levites in v7-8? Does that have any implications for our church, or for your involvement in church?
5. What turned the tears of verse 9 into the joy of verse 12?
6. What were the heads of families doing in verse 13? What evidence do you see that they were being trained to do something with what they were learning from the Word? (*What did they do with what they studied with the priests and Levites? See v14-17*) What does this imply for our families and the heads of our families? Do you have family time around the Word of God?
7. Do you have a plan for intake of the Word of God? What plans are you aware of? What else can you do to enhance your appetite for the Word? What ways can you show that taking in God's Word is a privilege, a feast, for you?
8. Pray for greater devotion to God's Word. Pray for specific help in personal and family devotions for those who need help.