

***“Happiness In Holiness!”***  
***Nehemiah 8:9-12***

**Introduction:**

1. Review: The Walls Are Finally Finished!
  - The People Are Gathered Inside The Walls For The First Time – To Worship The Lord & To Hear From His Word!
  - First 8 Verses - The Word Of God Is Central To Worship!
    - Then & Now!
    - Tells Us Who We Should Worship / Why / Even How!
2. 8:9-12 - Find The People’s Response To The Word Of God!
  - That Was Being Preached & Taught Them!
  - As God’s Law Was Being Taught – There Could Have Been 1 Of 2 Responses:
    - A Response Of Sorrow / Shame / Guilt!
      - Based On Man’s Nature!
      - Because Of Our Disregard & Disobedience To It!
    - A Response Of Joy / Celebration / Honor!
      - Based On God’s Nature!
      - Which Is Seen In The Giving Of His Law!
    - Which Response Would They Have? Should Have?
      - Both Responses Have Their Time & Place!
      - According To Ecclesiastes 3:4, There Is Both: “A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance!”
3. This Time – Because It Was A Festival – The Feast Of Trumpets – Was To Be A Time Of Joy & Not Of Sorrow!
  - And Their Focus Should Have Been On The Lord & Not On Themselves!
  - But, They Felt Their Guilt / Shame / Sorrow So Deeply, That Instead:
    - They Turned A Celebration Into Sorrow!
  - So, We See From This Passage Tonight That:
    - Not Only Is *The Word Of God The Center Of Worship!*
    - But *The Wonder Of God Ought To Be The Focus Of Worship!*
  - What Should Happen When You Worship The Lord?

**1. *A Celebration Of The Lord!***

- 8:9 - “And Nehemiah, which is the Tirshatha, and Ezra the priest the scribe, and the Levites that taught the people, said unto all the people, This day is holy unto the LORD your God; mourn not, nor weep. For all the people wept, when they heard the words of the law!”
- There Was A Call To Celebration!
  - By The Leaders Of The People!
  - Nehemiah - Political Leader / Ezra - Religious Leader / Levites - Personal Leaders – All Called On The People To Focus On The Lord!
- There Was A Cause For Celebration!
  - The Real Purpose Of The Assembly Was Not Being Met!
    - There Is A Time & Place For Grief & Sorrow!
    - That Was Not The Time / Place!
  - “This Day Is Holy Unto The Lord Your God!”
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Of 3 Times Mentioned In These 4 Verses!
  - It Was A Celebration Of God!
  - How Often We Forget That Worship Is About The Lord!
    - Not About Us!
    - Even Though Their Sorrow Was Good & Right, It Meant That They Were Looking IN & Not Looking UP!
  - Not Just Sunday – But Every Day Ought To Be Lived Like This!
    - “This Day Is Holy Unto The Lord Your God!”
- There Was A Concern About Celebration!

- “Mourn Not, Nor Weep!”
  - This Was Real, Genuine Sorrow!
  - Why? What Happened?
- “When They Heard The Words Of The Law!”
  - They Listened To & Learned From God’s Word!
  - And They Realized That There Were Some Problems In Their Lives!
    - Did They Neglect His Word?
    - Did They Forget His Word?
    - Did They Ignore His Word?
- It Was The Right Response – But Not The Right Timing!
  - A Child Of God / Christian Is Not To Remain In This Condition!
  - Because The Focus Must Come Off Of Self & On To God!
- When You Remember What God Has Done For You & Worship The Lord:
  - It Is To Be A Celebration Of The Lord!

## 2. *A Consecration To The Lord!*

- 8:10 - “Then he said unto them, Go your way, eat the fat, and drink the sweet, and send portions unto them for whom nothing is prepared: for this day is holy unto our Lord: neither be ye sorry; for the joy of the LORD is your strength!”
  - The Morning-Long Worship Service Is Now Over! The People Have Heard The Word Of God! Now What? What Happens Now?
  - When There Is Real Worship – A Consecration To The Lord Will Take Place!
- The Response Of Consecration!
  - Nehemiah Told The People That Something Should Happen / Something Should Change – As A Result Of What They Just Heard FROM God & ABOUT God!
  - A Change In Lifestyle – “Go Your Way!”
    - Go Home – But Don’t Go The Same Way You Came!
    - Not Just Hearers, But Doers - James 1:22 - “But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves!”
  - A Change In Outlook – “Eat The Fat – Drink The Sweet!”
    - It Wasn’t The Time To Eat “Sour Grapes” – But To Enjoy All That The Lord Had Given Them!
    - 1 Timothy 6:17 - “Who giveth us richly all things to enjoy!”
    - Enjoy The Faith / Fellowship / Family God Has Given You Through The Gospel!”
    - Philippians 4:4 - “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice!”
    - People Of Joy!
  - A Change In Love – “Send Portions”
    - Thinking Of & Giving To Others In Need!
    - Generosity / Hospitality!
    - James 2:15-16 - “If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, / And one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?”
  - The Worship Of God Ought To Change You!
- The Reason For Consecration!
  - “This Day Is Holy Unto The Lord!”
    - 2<sup>nd</sup> Time In These 4 Verses!
    - Referring To Not Just The Time Of The Worship Service – But The Time Of The Entire Day!
  - The Time Of Consecration Is Universal – All The Time!
  - The Place Of Consecration Is Universal – Every Place!
    - **IE:** No 9-5 Christians / No 9-12 Christians!
  - How Would This Change Your Day?
    - “This Day Is Holy Unto The Lord!”
- The Reward For Consecration!
  - A Renewed Heart!

- No More Sorrow! “Neither Be Ye Sorry!”
- The Gospel Turns Our Sorrow Into Joy!
- Jeremiah 31:13 - “For I will turn their mourning into joy, and will comfort them, and make them rejoice from their sorrow!”
- A Rejoicing Heart!
  - “For The Joy Of The Lord Is Your Strength!”
  - This Joy Will Prepare Us For Anything! Strength!
  - Isaiah 12:3 - “Therefore with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation!”
- When You Worship The Lord:
  - It Will Lead To Consecration / Commitment To The Lord!

### 3. ***A Compliance With The Lord!***

- 8:11-12 - “So the Levites stilled all the people, saying, Hold your peace, for the day is holy; neither be ye grieved. / And all the people went their way to eat, and to drink, and to send portions, and to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them!”
  - Learn: The Best Form Of Worship Is Obedience!
    - As Samuel Said To King Saul - 1 Samuel 15:22 - “Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice!”
- A Public Encouragement To Comply With God’s Word!
  - 8:11! The Levites - The Teaching Group - On The Ground!
  - Through Example!
  - Through Ease!
    - “Stilled The People!” - With A Word Of Comfort & Peace! Hebrew - “*Hasaw*” - “Hush!” - Console!
    - Considered Their Flocks! Like The Lord: Isaiah 42:3 - “A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth!”
  - Through Emphasis!
    - 3<sup>rd</sup> Time - “The Day Is Holy!”
    - Shortened For A Reason!
    - Not Just Holy To The Lord – But Holy To Them!
    - “Neither Be Ye Grieved!”
      - The Sorrow Of Sin Should Be Short!
- A Personal Effort To Comply With God’s Word!
  - 8:12! “All The People!”
  - Through Obedience!
    - Strict Obedience - Not Legalism / But Showing Loyalty! Is This How We Obey?
    - “Went – Eat – Drink – Send Portions!”
  - Through Opportunity!
    - “Make Great Mirth!” – Probably With Music!
    - The Freedom From Guilt Through The Gospel Brings Opportunity For Real Joy & Fellowship!
  - Through Observation!
    - Why This Change? **IE:** Try Changing Your Emotions! Were They All Good Actors?
    - “Because They Had Understood The Words That Were Declared Unto Them!”
    - The Change Was Real – From Their Hearts!
    - Like The Church In Thessalonica - “When ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe!” - And It Did Work In Them!

### **Conclusion:**

1. This Is What Real Worship Will Do – When It Is Centered On The Word & Focused On God!
  - And It Will Bring Real Change To The Hearer & Worshiper Of God!
2. Results:
  - There Will Be Real Celebration!

- There Will Be Real Consecration!
- There Will Be Real Compliance!
- 3. These Are The Results Of Real Worship!
  - What Happens When You Worship?
  - Remember:
    - The Word Of God Is The Center Of Our Worship!
    - The Wonder Of God Is The Focus Of Our Worship!
  - Let's Be Sure Our Worship Of The Lord Changes Us!
    - We Leave Different Than When We Came!

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