

***“The Impact Of Worship!”***  
***Nehemiah 9:1-5***

**Introduction:**

1. Nehemiah 9 Continues With The Theme Of Worship!
  - That We Saw So Clearly In Chapter 8!
  - The People Worshiped The Lord!
    - Because Of His Character As God!
    - Because Of His Conduct As God – And What He Did For Them!
      - Not Just Recently (Wall) – But In History!
2. What Have We Learned About Worship So Far?
  - 8:1-8 - The Word Is To Be The Center Of Our Worship!
  - 8:9-12 - The Lord Is To Be The Focus Of Our Worship!
  - 8:13-18 - Obedience Is To Be The Expression Of Our Worship!
  - Tonight We See The Impact Of Worship!
    - When Real Worship Takes Place, There Will Be An Impact On The Person Who Is Worshiping The Lord!
    - **IE:** When You Look At The Moon, Even Without A Telescope, You Can See Craters - Craters Are Made From The Impact Of Space Rocks On The Surface Of The Moon - The Impact Is Large & Lasting!
      - When We Genuinely Worship God - We Come Face To Face With The Power Of Our Creator & Redeemer - Real Worship Will Make A Large & Lasting Impact As Well!
3. The Impact That Worship Will Make Is:
  - Change!
    - There Will Be A Difference In The Person Who Truly Worships The Lord!
  - What Kind Of Change? What Kind Of Difference?
    - Seen In These 5 Verses!

**1. *A Change In Look!***

- 9:1 - “Now in the twenty and fourth day of this month the children of Israel were assembled with fasting, and with sackclothes, and earth upon them!”
  - How Do We See Ourselves? There Will Be A Change In How We See Ourselves, When We Have Worshiped The Lord!
  - Nearly A Month Has Passed From 8:1!
  - And A Full Day Has Passed From The Feast Of Tabernacles!
    - Started The 15<sup>th</sup> Through The 22<sup>nd</sup>!
  - This Is The 24<sup>th</sup> – No Special Feast Or Holiday!
    - They Must Have Really Spent Some Time Thinking About What Everything Meant!
    - After A Day Of Rest (On The 23<sup>rd</sup> Day)!
    - There Comes A Day Of Repentance!
  - And There Was A Change!
    - In How They Looked At Themselves!
- They Expressed Dependence!
  - “With Fasting” - An Expression Of Dependence Upon The Lord!
    - No Longer Living For / By Themselves!
    - The Food They Needed More Than Anything Was The “Food” Of God’s Word!
  - They Fasted From Physical Food!
    - So They Could Feast On Spiritual Food!
    - They Had A Steady Diet Of God’s Word All Month Long – And They Wanted More!
  - Matthew 4:4 - “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God!”
  - Job 23:12 - “I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food!”
- They Experienced Discomfort!
  - “With Sackclothes” - Course Clothing Made From Hair!
  - To Show The Discomfort They Had In Their Hearts Before The Lord!
    - Not To Gain His Approval! But Because They Knew They Did Not Deserve His

- Approval!
  - Sometimes God's Word Makes Us Uncomfortable!
    - Ought To! Shows Us When We Need To Change!
- They Expressed Deficiency!
  - "And Earth Upon Them"
    - To Show That They Are Incomplete Without The Lord!
    - They Need Him! Without Him, They Are But "Dust & Ashes!"
  - After All This Is All We Are, Apart From Him!
    - Adam Was Made From This!
    - Abraham Remembered This!
    - Job Understood This - Job 42:6 - "Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes!"
- Worship Will Change How You Look At Yourself!
  - You Will See Yourself As Someone Who Needs God More Than Anything Else In This Life! Even Food!
  - Romans 12:3 - "For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith!"
  - How Do You See Yourself?
    - When You Worship The Lord, There Will Be A Big Impact! Your Look Will Change!

## 2. *A Change In Lifestyle!*

- 9:2 - "And the seed of Israel separated themselves from all strangers, and stood and confessed their sins, and the iniquities of their fathers!"
  - How Do We Live & Act? Like Everyone Else? There Will Be A Change In Your Lifestyle, When You Have Worshiped The Lord!
  - As The "Seed Of Israel" They Realized That They Were Special!
    - They Were To Be Holy Unto The Lord! Different!
    - Deuteronomy 14:2 - "For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth!"
  - But They Had Not Been Who They Were Supposed To Be!
    - Until They Looked To The Lord & Worshiped Him!
  - Then, There Was An Impact On Their Lifestyle!
- A Life Of Holiness!
  - "Separated Themselves!"
    - Separation Is Key To Holiness!
  - Here, They Separated From "All Strangers!"
    - Those Who Where Not Part Of The Family Of God!
    - They Did Not Cast Them Off / They Went Off!
    - Because The "Strangers" Would Not Have Fully Understood!
    - Some Believe These "Strangers" To Be Foreign Wives!
  - There Is To Be Separation From The World!
    - Commitment To The Lord!
  - 2 Corinthians 6:17 - "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you!"
- A Life Of Honor!
  - "Stood!"
    - To Show Respect & Reverence To The Lord!
      - Because He Is Holy!
    - 1 Peter 1:15 - "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation!"
- A Life Of Humility!
  - "Confessed!"
    - To Admit Their Sin!

- To Acknowledge Their Responsibility / Guilt!
- To Accept The Consequences Of Their Sin!
- Their Sinful Conduct!
- Their Sinful Character! Following After The Sins Of Their Fathers!
  - This Is Real Humility & Repentance!
- Worship Will Change Your Lifestyle!
  - What Kind Of Impact Has Worship Had On Your Life?

### 3. *A Change In Love!*

- 9:3 - “And they stood up in their place, and read in the book of the law of the LORD their God one fourth part of the day; and another fourth part they confessed, and worshipped the LORD their God!”
  - Who / What Do We Love?
    - Matthew 6:21 - “For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also!”
  - There Was A Great Change In The Love & Devotion Of The Children Of Israel!
    - Remember, This Was An Ordinary Day That Became Extraordinary!
- A Love For God’s Food!
  - They Would Stand Again To Hear God’s Word Read To Them!
    - With Attention / Alertness - Didn’t Want To Miss A Single Word!
  - “The Book Of The Law Of The Lord Their God!”
    - Was The Only Thing That Would Satisfy!
  - For Another 3 Hours!
    - What A Change / Difference!
    - What A Change / Difference Could Be Made In / Through A Church / Christian That Has This Kind Of Love For God’s Word!
- A Love For God’s Forgiveness!
  - More Time Was Spent In “Confession!”
    - After They Received God’s Word – They Responded To God’s Word!
    - Spent An Equal Amount Of Time (3 Hours) Responding To What They Heard!
      - Good Application Here!
  - They Knew: Psalm 86:5 - “For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee!”
- A Love For God’s Faithfulness!
  - Their Response Was Also Worship!
    - Even Literally Bowing Down Before Him!
  - This Is What Our Confession Will Lead To!
    - Worship! As We Remember God’s Faithfulness!
- Worship Will Change Your Love!
  - This Is The Kind Of Impact Worship Makes!

### 4. *A Change In Language!*

- 9:4-5 - “Then stood up upon the stairs, of the Levites, Jeshua, and Bani, Kadmiel, Shebaniah, Bunni, Sherebiah, Bani, and Chenani, and cried with a loud voice unto the LORD their God. / Then the Levites, Jeshua, and Kadmiel, Bani, Hashabniah, Sherebiah, Hodijah, Shebaniah, and Pethahiah, said, Stand up and bless the LORD your God for ever and ever: and blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise!”
  - The Language Of The Leaders & People Turned To Praise!
  - Whenever We Truly Worship, Praise Will Be Our Language!
- The Elevation Of Praise! (9:4)
  - They Lifted Up Their Bodies!
    - On The Platforms Built For Proclaiming The Word!
  - They Lifted Up Their Voices!
    - “A Loud Voice!”
  - Because They Lifted Up Their Hearts To The Lord Their God!
  - Their Focus Was Up!
    - And Upon The Lord!

- Praise Will Elevate Our Hearts To The Lord!
- The Encouragement To Praise! (9:5)
  - All Of The Leaders Mentioned In These Two Verses Told The People To “Stand Up & Bless The Lord Your God For Ever And Ever!”
  - Plenty Of Reasons To Praise / Bless The Lord!
  - Because Of His Commitment To You! “Lord!”
  - Because Of Your Commitment To Him! “God!”
  - So Many Reasons To Praise The Lord!
    - Psalm 46:2 - “While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being!”
- The Example Of Praise!
  - The Levites Took The Lead In Praise!
    - Taught Through Instruction & Illustration!
  - Because Of His Glory!
    - No Amount Of Praise Can Compare To What He Really Deserves! “Exalted Above All Blessing & Praise!”
- This Is The Language Of Praise!
  - And This Is The Change That Will Take Place In Even Our Speech, When We Have Really Worshiped The Lord!

**Conclusion:**

1. Have You Worshiped The Lord Today?
  - Have You Received God’s Word?
  - Have You Responded To God’s Word?
2. Now, What Impact Will It Have On You?
  - If You Have Truly Worshiped The Lord, It Will Have A Big Impact!
  - It Will Change Your:
    - Look / Lifestyle / Love / Language!
  - Will It Change You?
    - Will There Be A Difference In Your Life This Week As A Result Of What Happened Today?
3. Change Is The Impact Of Worship!

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