

Feelings and God's Word

Nehemiah 8:9-12

East Berlin Community Church

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Introduction

- God has created us as emotional beings!
- All of us respond emotionally to what we see, hear, or experience.
- When people understand what the Scriptures are saying, their first response is usually emotional. They “feel” something.

Feelings and God's Word

A. The People felt SORROW!

1. The Law expresses the holiness of God, and how it was possible for a Holy God to be approached by holy people. – Deuteronomy 28:9-14, 49
2. In hearing the Law, the people realized how sinful they were.
 - a. The Law was not the means of a person's salvation.
 - b. The Law shows how sinful we are. Romans 7:7, 12, 13
3. In hearing the Law, the people realized that their current situation was due to their disobedience.
4. There is definitely a time and place for sorrow when hearing God's Word.—James 4:7-10; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11
5. But, this is NOT the time!?

B. The Leaders urge JOY!

1. Why???—*“This day is sacred to the LORD, your God.”*
 - a. Feast of Trumpets—Numbers 29
 - b. “New Year's Day”—time to be reminded that God is King!—Psalm 47:1; 96:1-4; 98:1, 4-6; 99:1-3
2. *“But I don't feel like celebrating!”*
 - a. Our Obedience to God and His Word is NOT driven by feelings!
 - 1) Today, *“If I feel like it, I will”*
 - 2) Ezra's reluctance to push for decisions—emotionalism
 - 3) Jesus and the pitfall of emotionalism—Matthew 13:20-21
 - b. Our Joy is NOT dependent upon our circumstances.—James 1:2-3; Philippians 1:18; 4:10-19; 4:1
 - 1) Our Joy is found in experiencing the presence of God.—Deuteronomy 12:7, 18; 14:27
 - 2) Our Joy is found through understanding and obeying God's Word.—Nehemiah 8:12
 - a) Great joy in the Word of God—Jeremiah 15:16; Psalm 19:8
 - b) Great joy obeying God's Word