

THE RESPONSE TO THE TEACHING OF THE WORD OF GOD

(Nehemiah 8:9-18)

I. EZRA THE PRIEST LEADS THE PEOPLE IN CORPORATE BIBLE STUDY (8:1-8)

II. THE PEOPLE'S RESPONSE TO THE TEACHING OF THE SCRIPTURES (8:9-18)

A. The People HEAR What the Word of God has to Say (8:9-12)

1. Nehemiah, Ezra and the Levites tried to _____ the people as they outwardly mourned; they were probably _____ with the Scriptures and _____ at the same time. (v. 9, cf. Rom. 3:20; Gal. 3:22-25)

2. The Law specified that the Blowing of Trumpets was to be a _____, so Nehemiah urged them to rejoice in the Lord. (v. 10a)

3. The people were urged to _____ to those who could not afford this celebration; Nehemiah's concern for those "*for whom nothing is prepared*" was well rooted in his own personal _____ towards _____. (v. 10b, cf. Neh. 5:14-19)

* Is your relationship with the Lord and the Word of God suppose to bring you joy?
(Ps. 19:8; 119:111; Philip. 4:4, 13; 1 John 1:3-4)

4. The Levities helped in convincing the people to stop mourning and start celebrating (v. 11); however, it was their _____ of the _____ that caused them to _____ (v. 12, cf. Jer. 15:16).

* Does your knowledge of the Scriptures give you assurance and help realign your thinking?

B. The People DO What the Word of God has to Say (8:13-18)

1. On the second day the people were still spiritually _____, and came back for more _____ from the Word of God. (v. 13)

2. The spiritual leaders _____ this instruction in the Law regarding the Feast of Tabernacles (Lev. 23:37-43); the timing was perfect—they had several days to _____ for it. (vv. 14-15)

* Did the people ignore or obey the Word of God? (v. 16)

3. The shanties perched on rooftops and in the town square for an entire week, were to _____ the people of the nomadic _____ of their ancestors and of their miraculous _____ into the Promised Land. (v. 17)

* How do we explain the last part of v. 17 in light of the fact that Tabernacles was celebrated in Solomon's day (2 Chron. 8:13); and in 536 with Zerubbabel (Ezra 3:1-4)?

4. Ezra continued the Bible conference during the entire week of the festival, day by day _____ and _____ the Word of God; most certainly, the combination of joyful fellowship, feasting, and hearing the Word must have _____ the people greatly. (v. 18)

* How can you personally apply this truth in your own life?