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- ⁶ "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. ⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. ⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. Deuteronomy 6:6-9

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Nehemiah 8-11



Israel's History - Background

- 606; 597; 586 – Three groups of Captives, Jerusalem Destroyed
- 538; 457; 444 – Three groups of Captives Return
 - Haggai & Zechariah stir the people to build temple (520 BC)
 - Nehemiah stirs the people to rebuild the wall/city (444 BC)
- Nehemiah 1-6 – The wall is Rebuilt
- Nehemiah 7 – Gates are hung, and guards set, Census
- Nehemiah 8-13 – The Restoration of the People led by Nehemiah and Ezra
 - 1-6: 25th Day of 6th Month (Elul) – The wall is finished (6:15)
 - 8-11: 1st Day of 7th Month – The Law is read in the presence of all the people (8:2)
 - 12-13 – Further reforms upon the return of Nehemiah (13:6)

The People Desired to Hear God's Word

- Neh. 8:1-3a – All the people gathered and requested Ezra bring the word – from morning until midday
- Neh. 8:4 – they made a platform of wood for the purpose
- Neh. 8:7-8 – it was read clearly, and the sense was given

- We need this desire for God's word today!
 - Matt. 5:6 – Blessed who hunger/thirst for righteousness
 - 1 Pt. 2:2 – As newborn babes, desire the word
 - Acts 13:42, 44, 48-49 – The Gentiles at Antioch
 - 2 Tim. 2:15; 1 Tim. 4:13 – Individually and Publicly

The People Were Attentive to God's Word

- Neh. 8:3b – Their ears attentive to the Book of the Law
- Neh. 8:5 – They stood when the book was opened
- Neh. 8:6 – They agreed with Ezra, lifted their hands, bowed their heads and worshipped the Lord
- God's word demands our attention!
 - Like those in the temple as Jesus taught (Lk. 19:47-48)
 - Blessed is he who hears/keeps; 7 x "*He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says*" (Rev. 1:3; 2-3)
 - Be diligent to present yourself approved of God...rightly dividing the word of God (2 Tim. 2:15)

The People Responded to God's Word

- Neh. 8:9-12 – Great Sorrow Turned to Great Rejoicing
- Neh. 8:13 – The leaders of families desired to understand God's word further the next day – met with priests, Levites, Ezra
 - Neh. 8:14-15 – Found a command they had been negligent of
 - Neh. 8:16-18 – Obey the command, read God's word each day
 - Neh. 9:1-3 – Later that month they came together, separated the foreigners, and read God's word and confessed their sins
 - Neh. 9:4-38 – Praise God, made a covenant to God (10:28-29)
- God's word should be responded to!
 - IT is God's power to salvation (Rom. 1:15-16) (James 1:22-25)
 - IT pricks the honest heart -> Repentance (Acts 2:36-37; 38; 2 Cor. 7:8-10)
 - Great joy should be the result (Acts 8:36-39)
 - Teach others so they can teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2)

- **THE PEOPLE DESIRED TO HEAR GOD'S WORD!**
- **THE PEOPLE WERE ATTENTIVE AND REVERENT TO GOD'S WORD!**
- **THE PEOPLE RESPONDED TO GOD'S WORD!**

RECEIVING GOD'S WORD

Nehemiah 8-11

