

Ezra-Nehemiah Part 13

Major Theme

God's Word Forms God's People

Character Matters for God's People - Nehemiah 7:1-5

- "But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look at his appearance or his stature because I have rejected him. Humans do not see what the Lord sees, for humans see what is visible, but the Lord sees the heart."" // 1 Samuel 16:7 (CSB)

The Impact of God's Word - Nehemiah 8:1-12

- Deuteronomy 31:9-13
- Ezra has been teaching God's Word for 13 years before this moment of reformation happens.
 - "Then after fourteen years I went up again to Jerusalem with Barnabas, taking Titus along also." // Galatians 2:1 (CSB)
- The teaching and reading of God's Word is done by multiple people
 - "And he himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, to build up the body of Christ, until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of God's Son, growing into maturity with a stature measured by Christ's fullness." // Ephesians 4:11-13 (CSB)
- The people respond with sorrow and joy
 - "For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword,

penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart." //

Hebrews 4:12 (CSB)

Worship centered on God's Word - Nehemiah 8:13-18

- Celebration of the Feast of Booths/Tabernacles or "Sukkot"
 - Sukkot celebrates the gathering of the harvest and commemorates the miraculous protection God provided for the people of Israel when they left Egypt.
 - The two major themes of the festival are Water and Joy
 - "On the last and most important day of the festival, Jesus stood up and cried out, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. The one who believes in me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams of living water flow from deep within him."" // John 7:37-38 (CSB)

The joy of the Lord

- "Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." // Hebrews 12:1-2 (CSB)