

Building for Christ: Nehemiah Lesson 7

Part 1

A Bible Study Series of The Mt. Zion Church

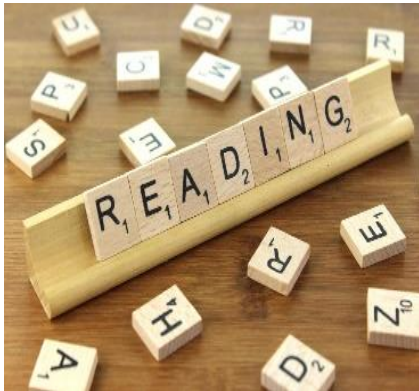
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We Have the Vision to be a LEARNING Church!
We are Rooted in Christ and Reaching the One!



Introduction: Often we have amazing moments in worship service where the word penetrates our understanding and elicits a momentary response. You've been there. The music was, the praying, the preaching, and testimonies of others moved you emotionally. Those moments can be powerful. In fact, worship should have an impact on each of us every time we engage in it. Remember, David was so excited about worship that he wrote Psalms 63 and 122 to describe the joy of being in the sanctuary for worship. Worship, however, was never intended to be a singular or confined moment. It was intended to be a sustaining part of our week that influences our thinking and our behavior throughout the week. Today's lesson identifies to us the power of The Word and Worship to impact the attitudes and actions of God's people.



Reading

Nehemiah 9

Nehemiah 8: 4-8

Psalms 1

Hosea 2: 23

Romans 11: 17

Terms to Understand

Covenant- a binding agreement (discussed in this lesson)

I. Worship—Nehemiah 9: 1-5

Chapter nine begins with an identifier of the time which passed between the events of chapter eight. Nehemiah identifies 23 days passed. On the 24th day of the month, the people assemble together again, but their mood is different than the mood that concludes chapter 8.

1. What is the mood of the people and what in the text proves this? (Verses 1-2).
2. Why do you think the people had this mood in response to the word they heard 23 days earlier?

While the people went home for three weeks, there was an impact that the word had on the people. The key to this is in the description of the sermon that was preached. Notice in Nehemiah 8: 4-8 that the word went forth in clarity. Below, write down how the moment was structured.

Chapter 8: 4-8

- Ezra stood _____
- The Levites _____ with the people so that it was _____.
- The Levites _____ so that the _____ understood what was read.

The structure of the preaching/teaching moment highlights an important lesson for all who share the Word of God. If people can understand the word and can relate to the Word they can respond to it appropriately!

- What makes understanding the Word of God so difficult?
- How can preachers and teachers help you to understand on a deeper level?
- How would a deeper understanding help your Christian walk?



I can BEE CARING

by showing concern
and helping others.

- Do you care enough about your growth and others' to give your Biblical leaders constructive criticism?

23 Days Later....

- How often do we go to church and the word has no lasting influence over our lives? Discuss with the group or write in your journal how you can continually come under the power of Word.

What promise does Psalms 1 have for us when we are directed and controlled by the word?

II. Covenant—Nehemiah 9: 8 and 9: 15

To better understand the issues of worship, growing in the word, and living as God's people, teachers of God's Word should probably begin all introductory "Growing in Christ" studies with a deep and thorough discussion on the term **covenant**. The usage of the term covenant occurs over 300 times in the Bible. A simplified definition of the term is that of a binding agreement. Unfortunately, the definition implies the agreement is bilateral, meaning between two equal parties. Thus, one party does their part and the other accomplishes their part and the covenant is fulfilled. Examples of passages which identify this concept are:

Joshua 9:15

1 Kings 5: 12

1 Samuel 20: 3



Covenants with God do not work this way however!!!! Why?

- Bilateral agreements imply equality of persons
- Bilateral agreements imply both parties bring resources which are equal
- Bilateral agreements imply both parties benefit equally

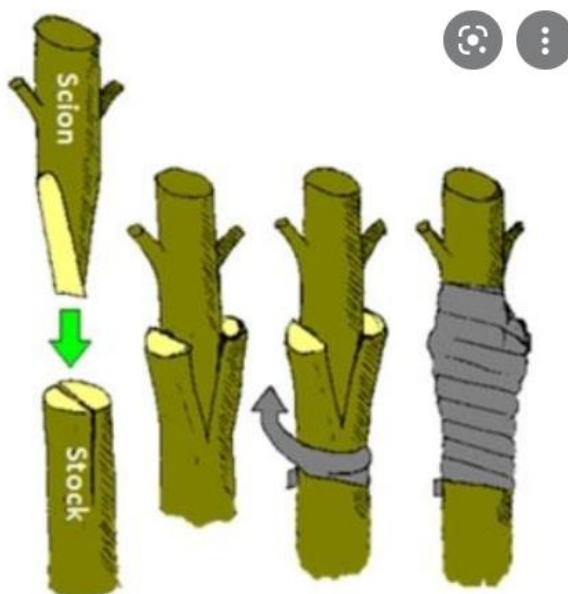


Discuss with your group why you could never live up to this type of agreement.

Neither of these is true with the covenant we have with God.

1. God initiates His covenant with us
 2. We benefit from the covenant
 3. We bring little to nothing to the covenant
 4. We are always indebted to the covenant
 5. The covenant is forever tilted in our favor
- What exactly is God's covenant with His people (The Jews)? (Genesis 12: 1-3)

If you are not Jewish, how does this relate to you? See Hosea 2: 23 and Roman 12: 11—we are grafted into the family.



It Looks Like This:

Those who are not Jewish are not part of God's original starting point for saving the world. However, prior to the promise God made to Abraham, one can see the intent was to leave no one behind. See the story of Noah where God sees righteousness as the qualification for saving, not direct family lineage. It is clear that God intended for the world to be saved along with the Jews and this is foretold in passages such as Hosea 2: 23, Romans 12: 11, and Revelation 7: 9.

- What does it mean to be adopted into a family?
- What benefits does an adopted member have in a family?

You were always a part of God's plan!

How does it change your perspective on life to know that God made a covenant with you that makes no logical sense but is done anyway?

How should it impact your behavior to know that God made a covenant with you?



Concluding thought: As we conclude the first half of this lesson, readers should understand that worship and The Word should cause us to respond in the long term not just in the moment. Further, as we understand how God has created a relationship with us through His covenant, the worship should be even more impactful to our daily lives. So, what do you need to do now????? How can you honor the covenant with God more today???