

#13 "Revival In Jerusalem"

Ready, Pray....Action!

A Study of the book of Nehemiah – Study Notes

Eastside Christian Fellowship: Nov. 18, 2007

In Nehemiah 8:13-18 answer the following:

- ✍ Who was it that met with Ezra and what did they do?
- ✍ What did they do after they "discovered" what was written in the law?
- ✍ What was the significance of the Feast of Tabernacles? Refer to Leviticus 23:33-43

In Nehemiah 9:1-2 the text says that they were "fasting and wearing sackcloth, their heads covered with dust."

- ✍ What is the significance of the sackcloth and ashes during that time?
- ✍ What would be equivalence for us today?
- ✍ When you think of the word "repent" what comes to mind?
- ✍ What is the difference between confessing a sin and repenting of the sin?
- ✍ What are some of the false types of repentance?

Read what the prophet Ezekiel is proclaiming in Ezek 18:30-32.

- ✍ What are the descriptive words that help define what true repentance is?
- ✍ What are they supposed to turn from? Is it just sin? What is the result?

Jesus' teachings were filled with the theme of repentance: Read these passages and discuss:

Matt 4:17 *From that time on Jesus began to preach, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."*

- ✍ Why was repentance a theme that Jesus kept preaching?

Luke 5:31-32 *Jesus answered them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. 32 I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."*

- ✍ What is the relation between the healthy and the righteous and the sick and the sinner?
- ✍ What is the centrality of Jesus' message in this passage?

Read Acts 2:38 and Acts 3:19-20

- ✍ How did repentance fit into the conversion picture in these passages?
- ✍ What is something in your life that you have truly repented of?
- ✍ What is the actual benefit of true, radical repentance? What was the benefit to you personally when you truly repented.

Charles Spurgeon, the great preacher, said the following about sin and how grace exposes sin. Read this quote and discuss the questions that follow.

Sin: revealed by grace: -- *When the light of God's grace comes into your heart, it is something like the opening of the windows of an old cellar that has been shut up for many days. Down in that cellar, which has not been opened for many months, are all kinds of loathsome creatures, and a few sickly plants blanched by the darkness. The walls are dark, and damp by the trail of reptiles: it is a horrid, filthy place, which no one would willingly enter. You may walk there in the dark very securely, and, except now and then for the touch of some slimy creature, you would not believe the place was so bad and filthy. Open those shutters, clean a pane of glass, let a little light in, and now see how a thousand noxious things have made this place their habitation! Sure, it was not the light that made this place so horrible; but it was the light that showed how horrible it was before. So let God's grace just open a window, and let the light into a man's soul, and he will stand astonished to see at what a distance he is from God.* (from The Biblical Illustrator Copyright (c) 2002 AGES and BibleSoft, Inc.)

- ✍ When sin is exposed in your life, do you think of it as grace being the light? Explain
- ✍ How accurate is the above imagery when you think about real life, sin, repentance, grace...?

What's the Point? Radical repentance is key to revival in your life.