

Joy part 2

Nehemiah 8:1-12

1. Who are three of the most joyful people that you know? What makes these people so joyful?
2. Are you one of the three most joyful people you know? If not why not?
3. Read Nehemiah 8:1-12, what strikes you about this passage?
4. What story is the first five books of the bible telling? (The Law of Moses).
5. (Read the following) *“A hush fell over the people as Ezra walked up onto a platform to read. That scroll was their faith, it was their rock. They had lost home and at times hope, but God’s word was always with them. For seventy years in captivity they had gathered on the Sabbath, unwrapping the scrolls and reading the stories of God’s guidance and deliverance. Now Ezra read the word of God inside the walls of rebuilt Jerusalem, the word of Gods deliverance in Gods delivered city.”* How important was the word of God for Israel? How important is the word of God for us? Where would we be without it?
6. Read again Nehemiah 8:9-11, why do the people need to be reminded that this is not a time of mourning but a time of joy? What implications does this have for our own encounter with Joy?
7. What is God seeking to achieve by this meeting at the water gate? Is this something God wants to achieve regularly?
8. Isaiah wrote; *...provide for those who grieve in Zion-- to bestow on them a crown of beauty instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair...* (Isaiah 61:3). What does God want to do in people’s lives?
9. Have you experienced joy arising in your life?
10. What do we need to do to have more joy?