

Nehemiah 9:1-3

“The Impact of God’s Word”

Part 2

Review – Nehemiah 8:1-12

- Response to God’s word

- Hunger for the word.
- Heard the word with understanding.
- Public reading of the word.
- Proper respect for the word.
- Responded in worship to the word.
- Were still in the presence of the word.
- Wept b/c of the word.
- Rejoiced b/c of the word.

Body

I. Nehemiah 9:1-3 – the impact of God’s word

A. V.1 – conviction – 8:9.

1) 24th day of this month = (8:2)7th month – Tishri – Sep/Oct.

a) Separate/different than the traditional expression of mourning for sins on the Day of Atonement on the 10th day of the 7th month – Lev. 16:29; 23:26; 25:9.

b) *The people didn’t wait to repent of their sin! When they were met with the conviction of God’s word, they responded appropriately: took it seriously; responded immediately.*

- c) Fasting, sackcloth, dust on their heads all signs of deep mourning = taking God's word seriously led to taking their own sin seriously. **Do you??? How do we respond to conviction?**
- 2) Why do so many respond to God's conviction with delay & resistance rather than mourning & repentance???
- a) **Pride** – we don't agree with it; we won't accept our guilt.
- b) **Callous** – we've accepted sin. We don't even realize/recognize when conviction comes knocking! *The spiritually blind can't see their own blindness.*
- c) **Sin nature** – we prefer to stay in our sin; we don't want to surrender what we've been convicted of.
- B. **V.2 – confession/repentance.**
- 1) “They separated themselves from **all the foreigners**” = those not of Israeli lineage – Lev. 20:26; 1 Pet. 2:9. Difference is essential!
- a) **Not until they separated themselves did they begin to confess & repent of their sin.**
- i) *Genuine confession/repentance requires separating ourselves from the world – 2Cor. 6:14-17; 7:10.*
- ii) Major reason our repentance isn't genuine is b/c we haven't separated ourselves; our thoughts, opinions, perceptions; lifestyles from society. *We don't see any harm in how we're living b/c we blend right in with the sinful majority!* Rom. 1:28-32
- 2) “They stood and confessed their sins **and the iniquities of their fathers**” = they took responsibility for their own sinful actions & acknowledged what their loved ones had done was sinful as well.
- a) *They didn't try to hide their sinful behavior & didn't try to excuse it by blaming it on someone else!*

C. Worship – 8:10-12

- 1) *Genuine repentance leads to forgiveness – 2 Cor. 7:10.*
- 2) *Forgiveness brings about a desire to praise the One who has granted what we don't deserve – Rom. 3:10, 23; 6:23; Col. 3:13-14.*
- 3) *Praise/worship a result of truly understanding what God has done, **BUT** we can't understand what God has done until we've heard about it from His word.*
 - a) **Rom. 10:14** – *“How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?”*